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Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 34
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 22 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the joint border delimitation and demarcation commission of the so-called "Republic of Abkhazia" and the Russian Federation, which is scheduled to be held between 28 March and 1 April (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alexander **Lomaia**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 22 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the joint border delimitation and demarcation commission of the so-called "Republic of Abkhazia" and the Russian Federation

According to media reports of 17 March 2011, Moscow will host the next meeting of the joint border delimitation and demarcation commission of the so-called "Republic of Abkhazia" and the Russian Federation, which is scheduled to be held between 28 March and 1 April.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia states that the Government of Georgia is the only party with which negotiations regarding the delimitation and demarcation of the Georgian State border can be held. According to international law, the so-called "negotiations" which are to be held between the occupying country and the proxy regime under its control are illegal, and any agreement which might result from these negotiations will have no legal significance.

Tbilisi, 18 March 2011

United Nations A/65/796

General Assembly

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Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 135

Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Nicole Ann **Mannion** (Ireland)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2010, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 28th meeting, on 7 March 2011. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/65/SR.28).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2010 and programme of work for 2011 (A/65/34) and a note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2010 (A/65/718).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/65/L.29

4. At its 31st meeting, on 25 March 2011, the Committee had before it a draft resolution on the item entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" (A/C.5/65/L.29), which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of South Africa and Vice-Chair of the Committee.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/65/L.29 without a vote (see para. 6).

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III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2010 and programme of work for 2011

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the Joint Inspection Unit, in particular resolutions 31/192 of 22 December 1976, 50/233 of 7 June 1996, 54/16 of 29 October 1999, 55/230 of 23 December 2000, 56/245 of 24 December 2001, 57/284 A and B of 20 December 2002, 58/286 of 8 April 2004, 59/267 of 23 December 2004, 60/258 of 8 May 2006, 61/238 of 22 December 2006, 61/260 of 4 April 2007, 62/226 of 22 December 2007, 62/246 of 3 April 2008, 63/272 of 7 April 2009 and 64/262 of 29 March 2010,

Reiterating that the impact of the work of the Unit on the cost-effectiveness of activities within the United Nations system is a shared responsibility of the Member States, the Unit and the secretariats of the participating organizations,

Reaffirming the commitment by the Unit, the legislative organs and the secretariats of the participating organizations to implement a system of follow-up to the recommendations of the Unit, as set out in resolution 54/16,

Reaffirming also the statute of the Unit[1] and the unique role of the Unit as the only external and independent system-wide inspection, evaluation and investigation body,

Having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2010 and programme of work for 2011,[2] and the note by the Secretary-General,[3]

1. *Recalls* its resolutions 61/260, 62/246, 63/272 and 64/262;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2010 and programme of work for 2011;[2]

3. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General;[3]

4. *Affirms* that oversight is a shared responsibility of Member States, the organizations and the internal and external oversight bodies;

5. *Reiterates its request* to the Unit, in line with its mandate, to continue to focus its work and reports on system-wide issues of interest and relevance to the participating organizations and the States Members of the United Nations and to provide advice on ways to ensure the avoidance of duplication and overlap and more efficient and effective use of resources in implementing the mandates of the Organization;

6. *Stresses* the need for the Unit to continuously update and improve its medium- and long-term strategy for 2010-2019, taking into account the dynamics and challenges of the environment in which it undertakes its activities;

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[1] Resolution 31/192, annex.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 34* (A/65/34).

[3] A/65/718.

7. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General contained in paragraph 15 of its resolution 64/262, in the light of the ongoing development of the medium- and long-term strategy for 2010-2019, to reflect the appropriate resource requirements associated with the implementation of the relevant portions of the strategy, in the context of the proposed programme budgets, including those relevant to the biennium 2012-2013;

8. *Invites* the Unit to report to the General Assembly on the reform process and the progress achieved therein and to present new assessments on options for enhancing the effectiveness of its work, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly on any related implications;

9. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by the Unit to achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency in its working methods, and encourages the Unit to further intensify its efforts in this regard by, inter alia, increasing the use of Junior Professional Officers to assist with the workload of the Unit;

10. *Reiterates its request* to the Unit to continue to focus its reports on important priority items, identifying concrete managerial, administrative and programming questions aimed at providing the General Assembly and other legislative organs of participating organizations with practical and action-oriented recommendations;

11. *Also reiterates its request* to the Unit to issue its reports well in advance of meetings of the legislative organs of participating organizations so that the reports can be thoroughly and effectively utilized in their deliberations;

12. *Stresses* the importance of optimizing the capacity of the Unit in order to allow it to complete its reports in a timely manner, in accordance with its programme of work, and requests the Unit, during its preparation of future annual programmes of work, to optimize the number of projects therein through prioritization, by taking into account the ongoing and foreseeable processes of the legislative organs of the participating organizations as well as the number of projects carried over from previous programmes of work;

13. *Requests* the Unit to improve its future programme of work, so that Member States can easily trace the progress of each project in future annual reports;

14. *Reiterates its request* to the executive heads of the participating organizations to fully comply with the statutory procedures for consideration of the reports of the Unit and, in particular, to submit their comments, including information on what they intend to do regarding the Unit's recommendations, to distribute reports in time for their consideration by legislative organs and to provide information on the steps to be taken to implement those recommendations accepted by the legislative organs and the executive heads of participating organizations;

15. *Notes* the difficulties that the Unit encountered in 2010 in obtaining information and data from the United Nations Secretariat relevant for the preparation of the report mandated by the General Assembly, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General and the other executive heads of the participating organizations to fully assist the Unit with the timely provision of all information requested by it pursuant to Article 6.2 of the statute of the Unit and all relevant resolutions of the Assembly;

16. *Reiterates its invitation* to the legislative organs of the participating organizations to fully consider, discuss and take concrete action in a timely manner on the relevant recommendations issued by the Unit, including follow-up as appropriate, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 4 of its resolution 50/233;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to expedite the implementation of the present resolution, including through the expected provision of support to the Unit by the secretariats of the participating organizations in the preparation of its reports, notes and confidential letters, and the consideration of and action on the recommendations of the Unit in the light of pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly, and to report to the Assembly on an annual basis on the results achieved;

18. *Welcomes and urges* further strengthening of the interaction between the Unit and focal points identified by the participating organizations regarding the work of the Unit, including discussion of the consideration and action by the participating organizations on the recommendations of the Unit;

19. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Unit to advance the development and implementation of the web-based follow-up system;

20. *Notes* the ongoing progress in the development of a web-based follow-up system to track the Unit's recommendations, including the status of acceptance, implementation and impact;

21. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in the amount of $71,300 under the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 for the development of the web-based follow-up system, and requests him to report on expenditures in the context of the second performance report;

22. *Invites* other participating organizations of the Unit to make every possible effort to contribute to the cost-sharing arrangement of the web-based follow-up system in 2011;

23. *Invites* the Unit to include in its annual report information on the status of the development and implementation of the web-based follow-up system;

24. *Requests* the Unit to make every effort to ensure that future funding requests are made in the context of the established regular budget cycle;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite all relevant oversight bodies to explore the possibility of utilizing the web-based follow-up system to enhance coordination, taking into account their different mandates and statuses;

26. *Welcomes* the coordination of the Unit with the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat, and encourages those bodies to continue sharing experience, knowledge, best practices and lessons learned with other United Nations audit and oversight bodies, as well as with the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, with a view to avoiding overlap or duplication and achieving further synergy, cooperation, effectiveness and efficiency, without prejudice to the respective mandates of the oversight bodies.

United Nations A/65/79

General Assembly

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Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 10
Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS

Uniting for universal access: towards zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The year 2011 marks 30 years of AIDS. In that time, AIDS has claimed more than 25 million lives and more than 60 million people have become infected with HIV. Still, each day, more than 7,000 people are newly infected with the virus, including 1,000 children. No country has escaped the devastation of this truly global epidemic.

Nevertheless, HIV programmes are now bearing fruit, with global HIV incidence declining, treatment access expanding and an unparalleled global movement mobilized to demand respect for the dignity and human rights of everyone vulnerable to, and affected by, HIV. The epidemic and the response it has generated have changed our world, elevating global health inequity on the worldwide political agenda and placing people at the centre of health, development and human rights efforts.

These accomplishments, while promising, are insufficient and in jeopardy. Stigma, discrimination and gender inequality continue to undermine efforts to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. An unsustainable trajectory of costs and the effects of a global economic downturn combine to threaten progress.

For three decades, evidence of what works has been debated in the General Assembly, parliaments, communities, places of worship and scientific forums. The international community enters the fourth decade with a vast body of knowledge and an array of new tools to revolutionize prevention efforts and dramatically scale up access to treatment, care and support.

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The HIV response faces a moment of truth: 2011 marks a unique opportunity to take stock of progress and to critically and honestly assess the barriers that keep us shackled to a reality in which the epidemic continues to outpace the response.

Bold decisions must be taken to dramatically reshape the AIDS response to reach zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. This requires rejuvenated political commitment for more focused, efficient and sustainable responses. It requires recognition that non-discrimination, pragmatism and compassion will yield benefits not only for the HIV response but also across health, development and human rights priorities.

Bridging the gaps

- For every person starting treatment, two are newly infected. Ending new HIV infections will require harnessing innovation, putting people living with HIV at the centre of the response, protecting human rights and eliminating gender inequality.
- Global AIDS resources have flatlined. Shared responsibility is required to protect access for more than six million people receiving HIV treatment and to bring treatment to the millions who are still in need.
- The trajectory of costs is wholly unsustainable. Resources must be focused on evidence-informed actions that will generate efficiency and sustainable results while promoting country- and people-owned responses.
- HIV responses must take advantage of the global momentum gathering for global health, with special emphasis on gender, and align and integrate with efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.
- Critical sources of leadership and accountability remain untapped. Emerging political powers, affected countries and people living with and vulnerable to HIV — including men who have sex with men, people who buy and sell sex and people who use drugs — must exercise greater leadership in the governance of HIV responses.

Mobilizing for impact: five recommendations

The present report contains the following five recommendations for all stakeholders:

(a) Champion a prevention revolution that harnesses the energy of young people and the potential of new modes of communication that are transforming the world, rescinds punitive laws that block effective responses and ensures that people are empowered to protect themselves, their partners and their families from HIV;

(b) Forge a revitalized framework for global solidarity to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2015;

(c) Break the upward trajectory of costs and deliver more effective, efficient and sustainable programmes;

(d) Ensure that our responses to HIV promote the health, human rights, security and dignity of women and girls;

(e) Commit to forging robust mutual accountability mechanisms.

I. Introduction

1. When Member States convened at the United Nations in 2001 for the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, the world was losing the struggle against HIV. In 2001, the number of people living with HIV was increasing, therapies revolutionizing the HIV response in high-income countries were virtually unavailable in the most severely affected countries and total resources spent on HIV activities in low- and middle-income countries amounted to only about 10 per cent of spending in 2009. The epidemic was reversing decades of development progress in sub-Saharan Africa, threatening stability and security, and exacerbating global inequity in health.

2. The 2001 special session resulted in a visionary Declaration that included time-bound targets in the response. The special session gave rise to a major global health financing institution, namely the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Pledging additional steps to strengthen the response, Member States embraced a complementary set of commitments in the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, including the pledge to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

3. Ten years after the landmark 2001 special session, the response to HIV has become perhaps the most compelling example of the power of international solidarity, evidence-informed action and political commitment. These achievements, although heartening, are exceedingly fragile.

4. The HIV response faces a moment of truth. HIV programmes are now bearing fruit, with the global HIV incidence declining, access to treatment expanding and a global movement mobilized to demand dignity and human rights for everyone affected by HIV. The HIV response has changed our world, elevating global inequity in health onto the political agenda, contributing to progress across the broad array of Millennium Development Goals and placing people at the centre of health and development efforts. These accomplishments, however, are in jeopardy. Aid fatigue and an enduring global economic downturn combine to threaten future support for essential initiatives.

5. The year 2011 is a historic marker in the global response; it allows the international community to review the progress of the last decade and marks 30 years into the epidemic. The international community must take this opportunity to reflect on lessons learned, reinvigorate and retool the response for the long term and maximize benefits for people most affected.

6. This report assesses progress and gaps in the response, based on data submitted by 182 countries and on national and regional reviews on universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.[1] Key findings include the following:

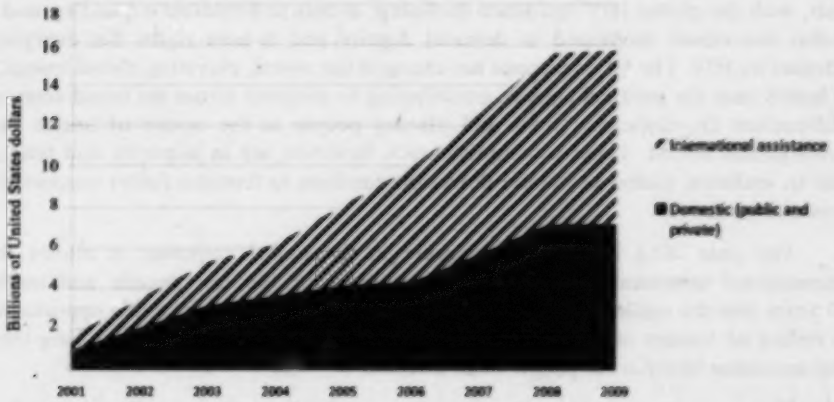
- **HIV prevention**. The number of people newly infected with HIV declined by 19 per cent in the decade before December 2009, with at least 33 countries experiencing a decline in HIV incidence of at least 25 per cent and 10 high-prevalence countries achieving the global goal of reducing HIV prevalence among young people by at least 25 per cent. Nevertheless, the epidemic

[1] Due to an inevitable lag in reporting from countries, this report relies mainly on data received as at December 2009.

continues to outpace the response, underscoring the need to revolutionize efforts to prevent new infections.

- **Antiretroviral therapy**. As at December 2010, more than six million people were estimated to be receiving antiretroviral therapy in low- and middle-income countries. Yet the majority of people in need still lack access.
- **Towards an HIV-free generation**. Global coverage for antiretroviral prophylaxis to prevent the vertical transmission of HIV has exceeded 50 per cent. However, more than 10 years after interventions were validated to prevent vertical transmission in resource-limited settings, the world remains far from achieving the goal of protecting newborns from becoming infected.
- **Human rights**. About three in 10 countries worldwide still lack laws prohibiting HIV-related discrimination. More than half of countries reported having laws or policies that indirectly or inadvertently reduce service access for vulnerable populations. Many of the countries with anti-discrimination laws do not rigorously enforce them.
- **Financing the response**. Funding for HIV programmes has dramatically increased, helping drive an overall surge in global health financing (see figure I). Nonetheless, in 2009, international HIV assistance declined for the first time, mirroring reductions in other forms of development aid.

Figure I
Total annual resources available for AIDS, 2001-2009



Source: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, 2011.

II. Thirty years of AIDS: reviewing the past, looking towards the future

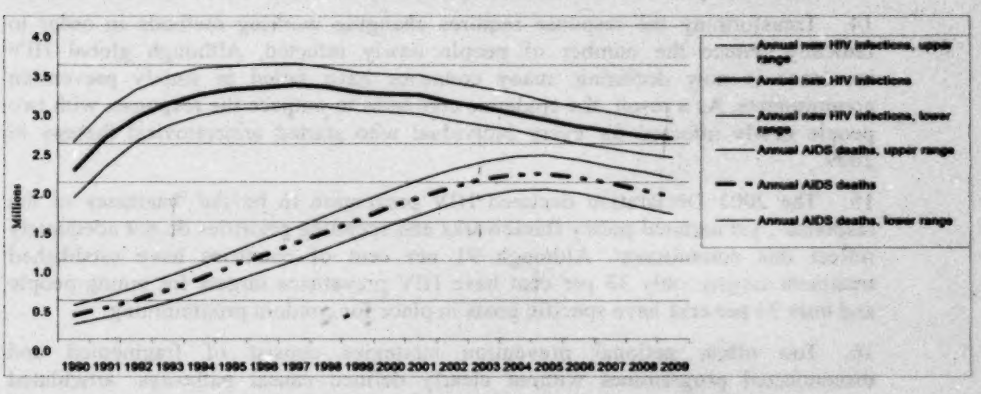
7. In 2009, an estimated 33.3 million people were living with HIV, a 27 per cent increase from 1999 (see figure II). Globally, nearly 23 per cent of all people living with HIV are younger than age 24, and people age 15-24 account for 35 per cent of all people becoming newly infected. Sub-Saharan Africa remains the most severely affected region, accounting for 68 per cent of all people living with HIV, 69 per cent

of new infections and 72 per cent of AIDS deaths. The epidemic, however, has not spared other regions; more than 10.8 million people are living with HIV outside sub-Saharan Africa. It continues to deepen poverty, increase hunger, slow progress on maternal and child health and exacerbate other infectious diseases.

8. The epidemic particularly affects women and girls. In 2009, women represented a slight majority (about 51 per cent of all people living with HIV and about 60 per cent of all people living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa). Adolescent girls and young women in sub-Saharan Africa are several times more likely to be living with HIV than males of the same age.

9. Although global HIV incidence has declined, the number of people acquiring infection remains on the rise in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, North Africa and the Middle East and parts of Asia. The often-cyclical nature of sexually transmitted epidemics underscores the need for continued vigilance, as prevention strategies must be reinforced and adapted as young people become sexually active.

Figure II
Estimated number of new HIV infections and deaths due to AIDS, 1990-2009



Source: *UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic 2010.*

10. With the number of people receiving antiretroviral therapy increasing 13-fold from 2004 to 2009, the number of AIDS-related deaths declined by 19 per cent during the same period. Still, the epidemic continues to exact severe consequences. From 2005 to 2009, the number of children orphaned by AIDS increased from 14.6 million to 16.6 million.

The 2001 and 2006 Declarations: a framework for unprecedented progress

11. The 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS helped to galvanize global resolve to reverse the epidemic. Outcome indicators were established to monitor implementation of the targets adopted in 2001, with countries submitting biennial progress reports to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). Civil society and people living with HIV have played an especially critical role in tracking progress in implementing the 2001 and 2006 Declarations, evaluating national policy responses and contributing to country-specific reviews.

12. The endorsement of the goal of universal access in 2006 substantially accelerated global momentum. More than 110 countries established clear,

time-bound national targets for service coverage. Although most countries are unlikely to have met their targets for 2010, advances over the last decade definitively demonstrate that universal access is both feasible and essential for long-term success.

III. Towards a world with zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths

13. Accomplishments to date have been genuine and often historic, but the pace and reach of scaling up remains inadequate. The response needs to be transformed. In 2010, UNAIDS articulated a new vision for the response, that of a world with zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. This new vision is intentionally ambitious, reflecting the high aspirations of a people-centred global movement.

A. Zero new infections

14. Transforming the response requires changing working methods in order to radically reduce the number of people newly infected. Although global HIV incidence is now declining, many countries have failed to satisfy prevention commitments. As a result, the epidemic continues to outpace the response, with two people newly infected for every individual who started antiretroviral therapy in 2009.

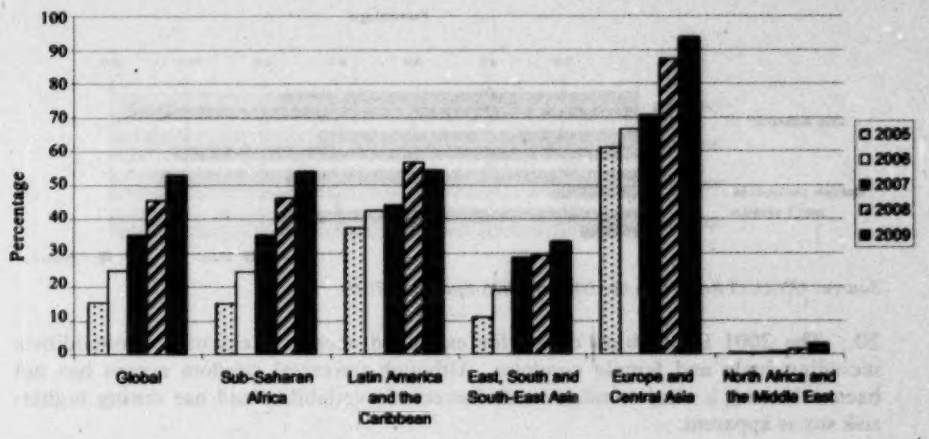
15. The 2001 Declaration declared HIV prevention to be the "mainstay of the response", yet national policy frameworks and spending priorities do not adequately reflect this commitment. Although 91 per cent of countries have established treatment targets, only 33 per cent have HIV prevalence targets for young people and only 34 per cent have specific goals in place for condom programming.

16. Too often, national prevention strategies consist of fragmented and disconnected programmes without clearly defined causal pathways, articulated synergies or target outcomes. In Asia, 90 per cent of prevention resources for young people support programmes focused on low-risk youth, who account for only 5 per cent of the people acquiring HIV infection. Similarly, in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, where epidemics are primarily concentrated among people who use drugs, 89 per cent of prevention investment fails to focus on the people at highest risk.

Progress in preventing vertical transmission

17. In recent years, a growing number of countries have laid the foundation for eliminating vertical transmission (see figure III). As at December 2009, 15 countries had achieved the target set in the 2001 Declaration of at least 80 per cent coverage of antiretroviral prophylaxis among pregnant women living with HIV, and an additional seven countries in sub-Saharan Africa reported coverage between 50 per cent and 80 per cent. Countries in Eastern Europe and Central Africa have achieved especially high coverage. As a result of scaled-up prevention services, the number of children newly infected declined by 24 per cent globally from 2004 to 2009.

Figure III
Coverage of antiretroviral drugs for preventing vertical transmission of HIV in low- and middle-income countries, globally and by geographical region, 2005-2009



Source: WHO, UNAIDS and UNICEF, *Towards Universal Access: Scaling Up Priority HIV/AIDS Interventions in the Health Sector — Progress Report 2010.*

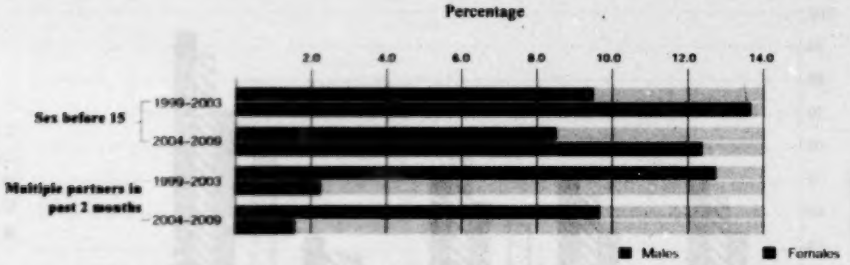
18. Eliminating vertical transmission requires far greater, and more rapid, advances to increase coverage and administer more effective regimens. Enhanced efforts are required to integrate HIV testing into antenatal services, since only 26 per cent of pregnant women in low- and middle-income countries were tested in 2009. Services to prevent mother-to-child transmission need to be more closely linked to sexual and reproductive health care. In 2009, 30 per cent of recipients of prevention services in antenatal settings received a suboptimal single-dose antiretroviral regimen, highlighting the importance of improving access to more efficacious combination regimens.

Encouraging trends among young people

19. Young people are leading the global prevention revolution. Among countries in which adult HIV prevalence exceeded 2 per cent, eight reported statistically significant declines in the percentage of girls who had sex before age 15, with seven countries reporting significant declines in early sexual debut among boys (see figure IV). Young people also show favourable trends in condom use (in 6 countries for young women and in 5 countries for young men) and number of sex partners (in 7 countries for young women and in 10 countries for young men). Although HIV-related knowledge among young people has increased, only 34 per cent of young people demonstrated accurate and comprehensive knowledge of HIV in 2009, well below the 95 per cent target identified in the 2001 Declaration of Commitment. Concerted action can address such knowledge deficits, as numerous countries — including Belarus, Chile and Eritrea — have demonstrated the feasibility of achieving rates of HIV-related knowledge exceeding 70 per cent among young people.

Figure IV

Young people and sexual risk: Proportion of people age 15-25 who had sex before age 15 and who had multiple partners in the past 12 months



Source: UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic 2010.

20. The 2001 Declaration called for expanded access to essential commodities, including male and female condoms. Although universal condom access has not been achieved, a clear trend towards increased availability and use during higher-risk sex is apparent.

Inadequate attention to the prevention needs of key populations at higher risk

21. The world will not be able to sharply lower the rate of HIV transmission without paying attention to the prevention needs of key populations at higher risk of exposure. However, as at 2009, only 26 per cent of countries had established prevention targets for sex workers, 30 per cent for people who used drugs and 18 per cent for men who had sex with men. Most countries do not report data on these key populations; many have little understanding of their size, age and geographical distribution. Resources allocated for prevention services for these groups are often minimal or non-existent. Other key populations that require heightened prevention support include prisoners, migrants, transgender people and people with disabilities.

22. According to data from 27 countries, only 32 per cent of people who injected drugs accessed HIV prevention services in 2009. In most countries surveyed in 2010, neither needle or syringe programmes nor long-acting opioid agonist therapy was available to reduce HIV transmission associated with drug use.

Making combination prevention a reality

23. To revolutionize HIV prevention, countries need to ground their national programmes in a thorough understanding of their epidemic and their response. Increasingly, countries are basing prevention strategies not on an understanding of the total number of people living with HIV (HIV prevalence), but rather on an improved understanding of the people newly infected with HIV (HIV incidence). As a result, a number of countries have taken steps to revise their prevention approaches to address emerging challenges and focus limited resources where they will have the greatest impact.

24. Combination prevention has been bolstered by the emergence of important new prevention tools, such as adult male circumcision, which reduces the risk of female-to-male sexual transmission by about 60 per cent. In 13 countries with high HIV prevalence and low prevalence of male circumcision, national situation

assessments have been conducted and strategic plans for scaling up circumcision developed. During the past two years, more than 200,000 men were circumcised in these 13 priority countries, including more than 90,000 in the Nyanza Province of Kenya alone.

25. Behavioural and biomedical approaches need to be supplemented with efforts that address the underlying social determinants of risk and vulnerability. In 2010, two studies in sub-Saharan Africa supported by the World Bank found that cash payments, contingent on adherence to recommended behaviour (such as staying in school or avoiding unprotected sex), reduced young people's risk of becoming infected with HIV or another sexually transmitted infection.

Emergence of critical new biomedical strategies for HIV prevention

26. During the past year, additional biomedical strategies have emerged to reduce the likelihood that any single sexual act will result in HIV transmission. In 2010, clinical trial results demonstrated that a vaginal microbicide could reduce a woman's risk of becoming infected during sexual intercourse. Additional trials are under way to confirm these results and to evaluate other microbicide candidates. If confirmed, these findings will help close a critical gap in the prevention toolkit: an effective prevention method that women may initiate on their own.

27. Also in 2010, a multi-country study found that a daily tablet containing the antiretroviral drugs tenofovir and emtricitabine reduced the risk of infection among men who had sex with men by 44 per cent. As in the case of microbicides, other trials are being conducted to confirm these results, including trials involving heterosexual cohort studies.

28. Each of these biomedical prevention advances involves unique and complex challenges. Additional studies are required to optimize acceptability, enhance adherence to prescribed protocols, monitor the risk of viral resistance in case of seroconversion and determine optimal service delivery models. National decision makers should expedite the integration of validated new tools into prevention programmes, where indicated, to increase the viability and sustainability of combination prevention efforts.

29. The search also continues for a preventive vaccine. Researchers have identified multiple antibodies that appear to neutralize HIV, providing important new avenues for vaccine development.

Integrating prevention and treatment

30. As the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS emphasized, prevention, treatment, care and support are mutually reinforcing and must be closely linked. Emerging evidence of the important prevention benefits of antiretroviral therapy, which lowers viral load and thereby reduces the infectiousness of people living with HIV, merely underscores the need to link prevention and treatment efforts.

31. Separate planning approaches, however, are often undertaken for prevention and treatment. Little integration occurs at the level of service delivery. Referral systems for people who test HIV-positive are frequently fragmented and unmonitored. Prevention interventions have not been fully integrated in many clinical sites and about half of pregnant women testing HIV-positive in 2009 were not assessed for their eligibility to receive antiretroviral therapy. To strengthen links between prevention and treatment and to empower people living with HIV in prevention efforts, civil society partners joined with UNAIDS to call for

implementation of a strategy known as "positive health, dignity and prevention". This strategy integrates prevention efforts into a holistic approach that takes account of the treatment needs and human rights of people living with HIV.

B. Zero discrimination

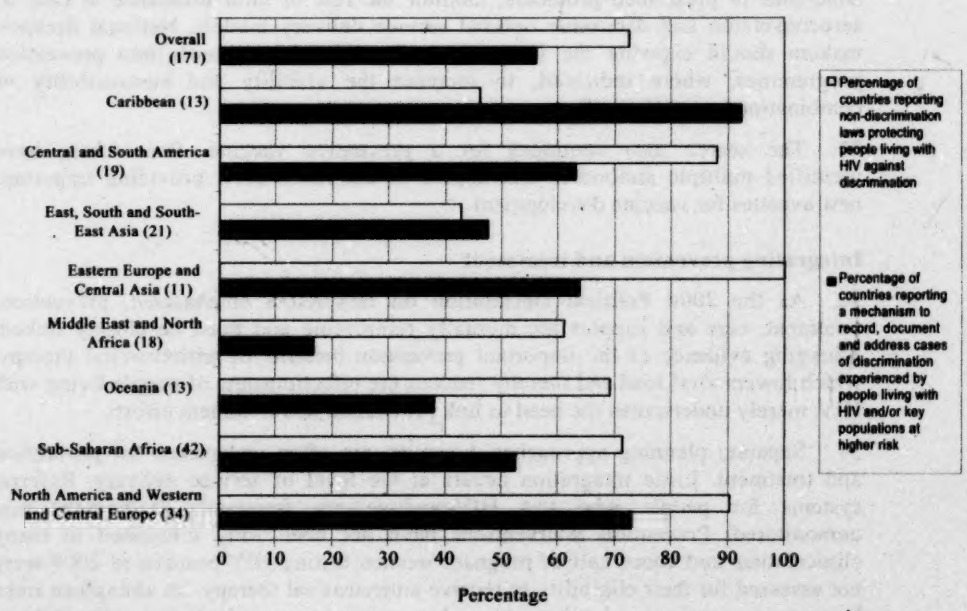
32. Thirty years after the epidemic was initially recognized, human rights violations continue to prevent open and compassionate discussion of the HIV challenge, deter individuals from seeking needed services, and increase individual vulnerability. An international survey of people living with HIV in 2010 found that more than one third had experienced loss of employment, denial of health care, social or vocational exclusion and/or involuntary disclosure. Globally, Governments cite stigma as the single greatest impediment to accelerated progress in the response. Social attitudes need to be transformed, and resources must be allocated to anti-stigma strategies and other initiatives to promote and protect human rights.

Inadequate protection against discrimination

33. The 2001 Declaration called on all Member States to have in place strong, enforceable measures to eliminate discrimination against people living with HIV or vulnerable groups. Although the number of countries reporting anti-discrimination laws in place increased from 56 per cent in 2006 to 71 per cent in 2010 (see figure V), it is disturbing that nearly 3 in 10 countries still lack such laws or regulations.

Figure V

Percentage of countries with legal protections against discrimination for people living with HIV and mechanisms for redress, as reported by non-governmental sources


Overall (171)
Caribbean (13)
Central and South America (19)
East, South and South-East Asia (21)
Eastern Europe and Central Asia (11)
Middle East and North Africa (18)
Oceania (13)
Sub-Saharan Africa (42)
North America and Western and Central Europe (34)
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
90
100
Percentage
Percentage of countries reporting non-discrimination laws protecting people living with HIV against discrimination
Percentage of countries reporting a mechanism to record, document and address cases of discrimination experienced by people living with HIV and/or key populations at higher risk

Source: UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic 2010.

34. When anti-discrimination provisions are in place, they are often not effectively enforced. Globally, fewer than 60 per cent of countries report having a mechanism to record, document and address cases of HIV-related discrimination. In many countries, people living with HIV are at high risk of losing their homes, employment, property and inheritance due to inadequate protection.

35. In 2010, the vast majority of countries (91 per cent) addressed stigma and discrimination in their national HIV strategies, and 90 per cent of countries reported anti-stigma activities. However, most countries have no budget for anti-stigma activities.

36. Forty-nine countries, territories and entities impose some form of restriction on the entry, stay and residence of people living with HIV. Recent progress in this area is encouraging, as China, Namibia, Ukraine and the United States of America have repealed their respective HIV-based travel restrictions.

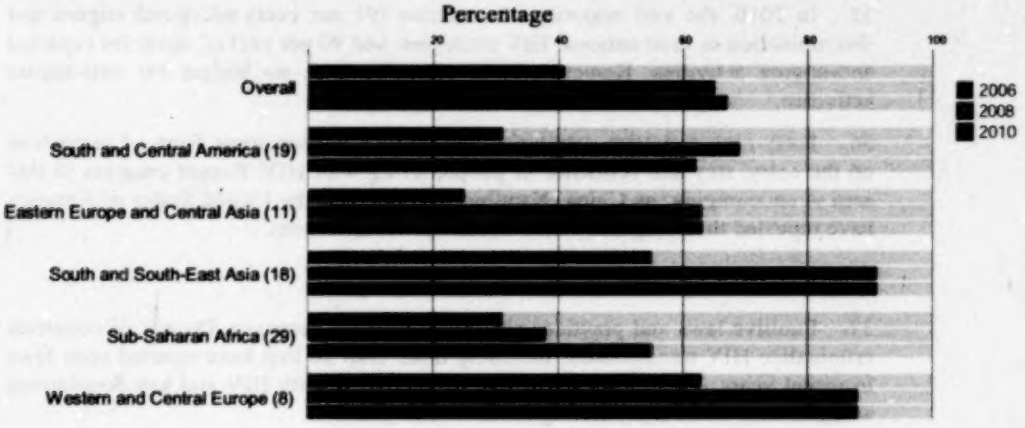
Discrimination against key populations at higher risk

37. Punitive laws and practices also undermine the response. Dozens of countries criminalize HIV transmission, including more than 20 that have enacted such laws in recent years. These laws stigmatize people living with HIV and key populations at higher risk without promoting public health goals.

38. Seventy-nine countries and territories criminalize same-sex sexual relations between consenting adults, and more than 100 countries criminalize aspects of sex work. In settings throughout the world, fear and social disapproval increase the vulnerability of mobile populations, prisoners, adolescents who practice high-risk behaviour and people in humanitarian settings. Such discrimination deepens social marginalization, increases the risk of harassment or violence and inhibits communities from mobilizing to address the epidemic.

39. Discriminatory policies also reduce access to essential prevention and treatment services. Among 106 countries, non-governmental sources in 62 per cent of countries reported that laws, regulations or policies were in place diminishing access to services for key populations at higher risk (see figure VI).

Figure VI
Percentage of countries in which non-governmental sources report laws or regulations that create obstacles to effective HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for population groups at higher risk and other vulnerable populations, 2006-2010



Source: *UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic 2010.*
Note: The following regions are not displayed owing to insufficient countries: Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, East Asia, Oceania and North America.

40. Strong leadership helps overcome the legacy of discrimination. Recent years have witnessed the expansion of prevention programmes for men who have sex with men in China, the scaling up of community-centred services targeted for sex workers in India and the decision by a growing number of countries to remove restrictions on harm reduction programmes for people who use drugs.

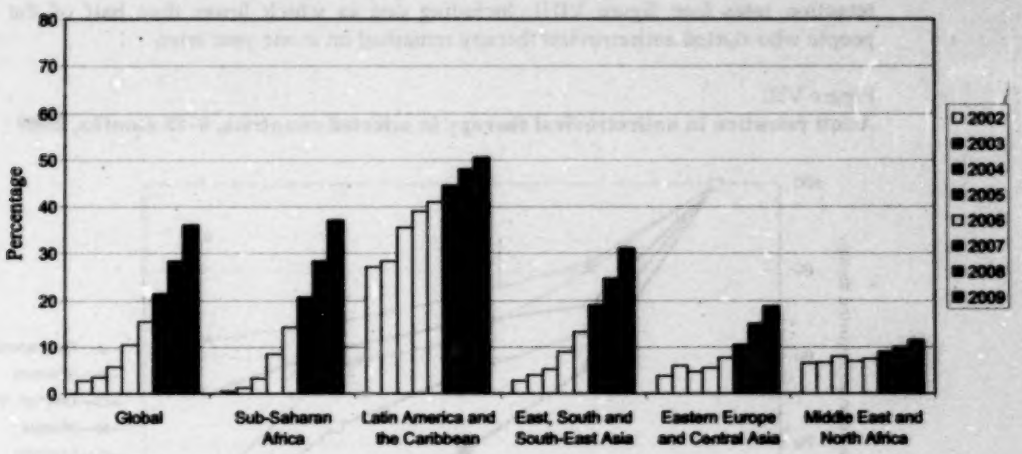
C. Zero AIDS-related deaths

41. Despite recent progress, nearly two in three people who are eligible for therapy still lack access. Transforming the response requires delivering life-preserving therapies to the people who need them, as well as new treatment, care and support approaches that are more sustainable.

Coverage is increasing but still inadequate

42. Recent gains in access to treatment are unprecedented (see figure VII). By the end of 2009, eight low- or middle-income countries were providing antiretroviral therapy to at least 80 per cent of the people eligible for treatment. Striking gains have been made in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Figure VII
Antiretroviral therapy coverage in low- and middle-income countries, globally and by region, 2002-2009



Source: WHO, UNAIDS and UNICEF, *Towards Universal Access: Scaling Up Priority HIV/AIDS Interventions in the Health Sector — Progress Report 2010.*

43. Yet these advances have failed to keep pace with the global need for treatment. About 10 million people who could benefit from treatment were not receiving it in 2009.

The quest for equitable access to treatment

44. Globally, treatment coverage is notably lower for children (28 per cent) than for adults (37 per cent). Historically, children's poorer access to treatment stemmed from the shortage of antiretroviral formulations for children, difficulties in diagnosing HIV among infants and the higher cost of drugs for children. An array of cost-effective antiretroviral formulations for children are now available, and improved technology permits rapid HIV diagnosis.

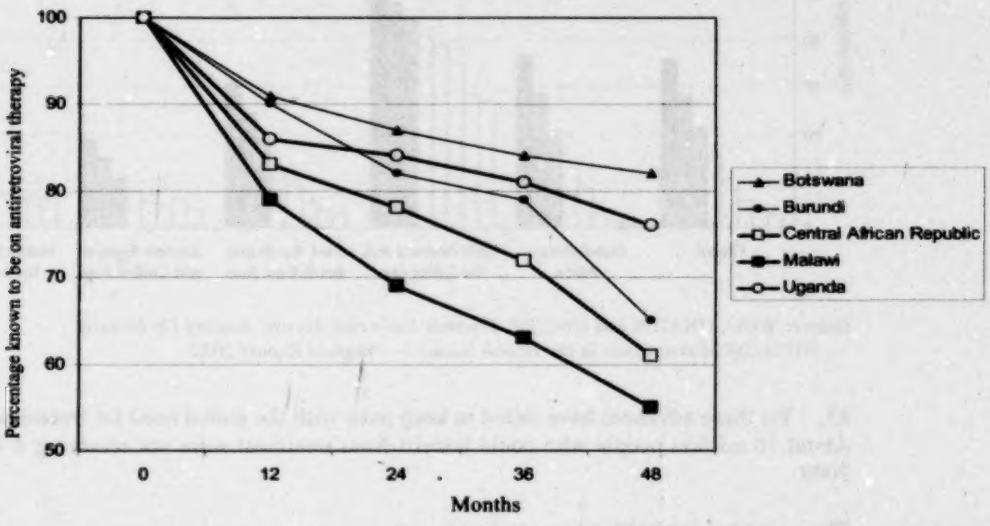
45. Marginalized populations also struggle to obtain equitable access to treatment, in part as a result of the hostility of many health-care workers. Among 21 countries reporting data on antiretroviral treatment utilization among people who injected drugs, 14 countries reached fewer than 5 per cent of such individuals.

Timely diagnosis and continuity of care

46. Although HIV testing has increased in recent years, fewer than 40 per cent of people living with HIV were aware that they were infected in 2009. Adolescents have special difficulty in accessing testing services, and globally, only 6 per cent of babies born to women living with HIV are tested. In numerous countries, testing rates have sharply risen following implementation of provider-initiated testing and counselling, intensive national campaigns and mobile testing initiatives.

47. Maintaining health-care continuity is essential to favourable medical outcomes for people living with HIV. In 26 low- and middle-income countries, at least 95 per cent of all individuals who initiate antiretroviral therapy continue receiving treatment after one year. However, many countries report significantly lower retention rates (see figure VIII), including one in which fewer than half of the people who started antiretroviral therapy remained on it one year later.

Figure VIII
Adult retention in antiretroviral therapy in selected countries, 0–48 months, 2009



Source: WHO, UNAIDS and UNICEF, *Towards Universal Access: Scaling Up Priority HIV/AIDS Interventions in the Health Sector — Progress Report 2010.*

48. Several factors impede treatment uptake and contribute to dropout. These include inadequate or non-existent transport to distant clinical sites, insufficient support services, side effects associated with suboptimal treatment regimens, out-of-pocket expenses for non-drug components of treatment services, opportunity costs (such as lost income) associated with clinic attendance and inadequate human resources for health.

Management of tuberculosis and other co-occurring conditions

49. Tuberculosis remains a leading cause of death among people living with HIV. A more integrated approach to the delivery of HIV and tuberculosis services improves health outcomes and reduces service costs. The UNAIDS strategy for 2011-2015 and the Global Plan to Stop TB aim to reduce by 50 per cent the number of tuberculosis deaths among people living with HIV compared with 2004 through enhanced service collaboration.

50. Significant advances have been made in managing HIV and tuberculosis coinfection, but enormous gaps remain. In 2009, 26 per cent of people with tuberculosis were tested for HIV — up from 4 per cent in 2003, but far from

adequate. Fifty-five countries reported testing at least 75 per cent of all people with tuberculosis for HIV in 2009, many of them in African countries with a heavy HIV burden. Among the 450,000 people with tuberculosis who tested HIV-positive in 2009, only 37 per cent received antiretroviral therapy. An even greater access gap was reported for tuberculosis screening, with only 5 per cent of people living with HIV screened for tuberculosis. Only 0.2 per cent of people living with HIV received isoniazid preventive therapy.

51. The 2001 Declaration called for implementation of strategies to deliver comprehensive care to people living with HIV. Since people with HIV live longer as a result of treatment advances, cancers and other disorders associated with ageing are likely to become more prominent in HIV clinical settings, underscoring the need for preparedness to provide holistic care and support.

Care and support for children orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV

52. The 2001 Declaration committed Member States to implement policies to provide a supportive environment to orphans and vulnerable children, including access to schooling, shelter, proper nutrition and health and social services. In hyperendemic countries, HIV is responsible for more than one in three orphans. Although social protection initiatives improve HIV outcomes for children, too few children receive any form of external support free of charge. In a number of countries, the proportion of households with children orphaned or made vulnerable by AIDS receiving basic support actually declined from 2005 to 2010. Many efforts to address children's needs remain small-scale, even though more than 16 million children worldwide have been orphaned due to AIDS and millions more experience daily vulnerability as a result of the epidemic.

53. To strengthen the safety net for children affected by the epidemic, several countries have taken steps to implement social cash transfer programmes for vulnerable households. Countries that have expanded access to cash assistance for households with vulnerable children include Gabon, Malawi, Namibia and Zambia.

IV. Cross-cutting issues

54. Achieving the vision of a world with zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths requires substantially greater progress across a range of cross-cutting issues.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

55. Revolutionizing HIV prevention requires concrete progress towards gender equality. This priority is especially imperative in sub-Saharan Africa, where 76 per cent of all women living with HIV reside and where 13 women become infected for every 10 men.

56. This imbalance reflects not only the heightened physiological vulnerability of girls and young women, but also a high prevalence of intergenerational partnerships, lack of woman-initiated prevention methods and broader social and legal inequality that impedes the ability of young women to reduce their sexual risk. Women's odds of living with HIV are inversely correlated with educational attainment, a fact that highlights the role of universal education initiatives in reducing HIV-related

vulnerability. Women also bear a disproportionate share of the HIV-related caregiving burden and are often more likely to be the victims of discrimination.

57. Despite the epidemic's enormous toll on women and girls, fewer than half of countries provide a specific budget for HIV-related programmes for women and girls. The prevalence of gender-based violence is as high as 50 per cent in some countries, with one of four women in sub-Saharan Africa reporting that their first sexual experience was coerced. Few programmes are in place to engage men and boys in efforts to eliminate gender-based violence and inculcate healthier gender norms. Zero tolerance of gender-based violence must be a shared goal.

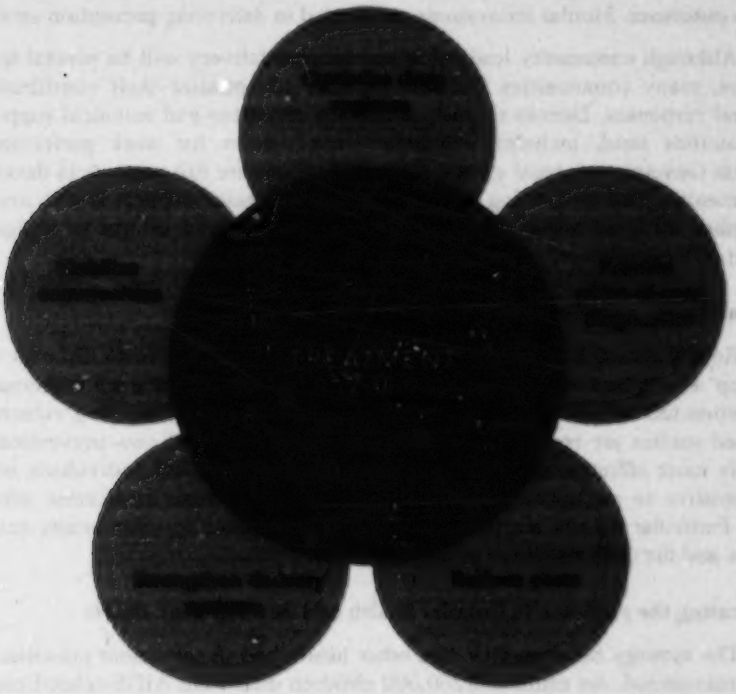
Robust and sustained financing for the response

58. Only a collective sense of shared responsibility and accountability will ensure that the response has sufficient resources in future years. In 2009, low- and middle-income countries accounted for 52 per cent of HIV expenditure. However, many low-income countries remain almost wholly dependent on external support.

59. Many countries, including some with severe and growing epidemics, have not given the response the priority it deserves. Middle-income countries, in particular, should cover their own HIV-related costs, with the possible exception of a few hyperendemic countries that will need continued assistance. Low-income countries will remain largely dependent on international AIDS assistance in future years, highlighting the need for more effective use of resources, streamlined donor reporting requirements, alignment with national strategies and institutions and more predictable funding. However, even low-income countries have an important role to play in funding and taking ownership of their response. Long-term financing for the response highlights the urgent need for sustained support to the Global Fund.

60. As efforts are made to mobilize new resources for the response, intensified attention must focus on maximizing the efficient use of available resources. The Treatment 2.0 approach, a new treatment platform launched by UNAIDS in 2010 (see figure IX), aims to optimize the long-term benefits of HIV treatment while implementing measures to increase efficiency.

Figure IX
Five pillars of Treatment 2.0



61. Lowering the costs of HIV commodities is critical. The number of countries that allow for flexibilities in intellectual property rules has declined in recent years, and a growing array of bilateral and regional trade agreements are undermining the ability of countries to maximize these flexibilities to promote access to essential medicines.

Building sustainable capacity

62. Both the 2001 and 2006 Declarations recognize the importance of strengthening systems. The challenges the epidemic poses to fragile health systems are especially evident in sub-Saharan Africa, home to more than two of three people living with HIV, but to only 3 per cent of the world's health-care providers. There are encouraging signs of resilience as health systems struggle to cope with the epidemic's demands. The number of health facilities administering antiretroviral therapy rose by 36 per cent from 2008 to 2009. Studies indicate that HIV programmes are conferring broad benefits on health systems, refurbishing clinics, strengthening commodity procurement and supply management and building national capacity for monitoring and evaluation.

63. Underlying weaknesses in health systems continue to undermine efforts to expand service access. Of 94 countries reporting, 38 per cent had at least one drug stock out in 2009. Current models for expanding treatment, which are heavily hospital- and physician-intensive, strengthen the effects of health worker shortages

and underscore the need for greater task-shifting of clinical duties to lower-level staff. Studies confirm that the greater use of nurses, mid-level staff and lay workers in antiretroviral therapy settings may enable excellent, and sometimes even superior, health outcomes. Similar innovations are needed in delivering prevention services.

64. Although community leadership and service delivery will be pivotal to future success, many communities lack the capacity to optimize their contributions to national responses. Donors should provide the resources and technical support that communities need, including adequate compensation for work performed, and national Governments must ensure that communities are full partners in developing, implementing and monitoring AIDS strategies. Increased support is also needed to strengthen national social protection systems to improve efforts to mitigate the impact of the epidemic.

Expanding the evidence base for action

65. Robust research efforts are needed to accelerate the drive to discover a cure, develop a safe and effective vaccine, expedite the emergence of additional new prevention technologies and better understand and address underlying vulnerability. Focused studies are required to expedite the introduction of new prevention tools, identify more effective strategies to increase HIV testing, link individuals who test HIV-positive to continuous, high-quality care and increase medication adherence rates. Particular efforts are required to increase support for community-generated studies and the documentation of best practices.

Integrating the response in broader health and development efforts

66. The synergy between HIV and other health and development priorities needs to be maximized. An estimated 260,000 children died from AIDS-related causes in 2009, and HIV is a key factor in an estimated 20 per cent of all maternal deaths. HIV deepens poverty, exacerbates hunger and contributes to higher rates of tuberculosis and other infectious diseases. Conversely, progress on other development priorities, such as universal schooling, gender equality and health system strengthening, helps bolster HIV responses. Achieving this synergy requires integrating HIV within the broader development agendas at the levels of strategic planning, service delivery, advocacy and partnership cultivation.

HIV and security

67. Significant changes have occurred in the landscape of demographic crises and conflicts. Evolving challenges and new risks elevate the need for strengthened HIV responses in the context of efforts of the United Nations to prevent conflict, promote security, strengthen fragile States and build peace. A new course of action is needed that mobilizes the millions of members of uniformed services as important agents of change — especially in combating all types of violence against women — and aligns strategies for HIV prevention with conflict, post-conflict and peacebuilding operations.

V. A call to action: five recommendations

68. At this pivotal juncture, it is necessary to dramatically reshape the HIV response to reach zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-

related deaths. This requires rejuvenated political leadership for more focused, efficient and sustainable responses that are aligned with broader health, development and human rights agendas.

69. The Secretary-General calls on all leaders to take advantage of this turning point in the epidemic: an AIDS transition that sees fewer people newly infected than those who start receiving treatment is an attainable target. The international community must intensify its efforts if it is to achieve, by 2015, universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and other unmet targets of the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, and to implement the action agenda of the 2010 outcome document entitled "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals" (see General Assembly resolution 65/1).

70. Every aspect of the response must reflect a shared commitment to transformative social change for health, development and human rights. It must incentivize leaders to take bold action to bring about such change. It must be ensured that the HIV response is sustained as a political priority, taken out of isolation and leveraged to reinforce the social fabric of our societies. It must strengthen the systems that deliver critical services to the most vulnerable and marginalized members of our communities.

A. End new HIV infections

71. Ending new infections will require responding to a fast-changing world, which is marked increasingly by urbanization, human mobility and insecurity. Thirty years into the epidemic, HIV prevention and treatment efforts are increasingly unified to more efficiently achieve the shared outcomes of fewer new infections and fewer people dying. Putting people living with HIV at the centre of the response is therefore critical. It must be recognized that inclusion, non-discrimination, pragmatism and compassion will yield benefits not only for the HIV response but also across health, development and human rights priorities.

72. The Secretary-General therefore calls on all Member States, civil society, the private sector and other actors to champion a prevention revolution that harnesses the energy of young people and the potential of new modes of connection and communication that are transforming the world, that rescinds punitive laws that block effective responses and ensures people are empowered to protect themselves, their partners and their families from HIV by undertaking the following actions:

(a) Commit to averting the maximum number of HIV infections for each dollar spent by focusing evidence-informed and rights-based efforts on the populations that account for the largest share of new infections and by saturating transmission hot spots with proven interventions such as female and male condom promotion, male circumcision, treatment as prevention, harm reduction for drug users and "Positive health, dignity and prevention" approaches that link the social and health needs of people living with HIV within a human rights framework;

(b) Ensure that legal, political and social environments enable effective HIV responses — including through protective laws, supportive law enforcement and access to justice — to eradicate HIV-related stigma and discrimination and to enable equitable access to HIV-related information and services, especially for people who

use drugs, men who have sex with men, people who buy and sell sex, young people and populations affected by humanitarian situations;

(c) Scale up research investments to accelerate the development of vaccines, female-controlled methods, microbicides and other prevention tools, and enhance collaboration among scientists, the private sector, Governments and communities to expedite the introduction of, and equitable access to, validated new tools as they emerge.

B. Share responsibility and build ownership for sustainable outcomes

73. While some $16 billion was available for the global response in 2010, a significant gap remains between investment needs and available resources, and the gap is widening. It is imperative to ensure the sustainability of efforts, including protecting access for the more than 6 million people receiving treatment in low- and middle-income countries and ensuring access for the millions who are still in need. Countries must commit to global solidarity, built on the tenets of shared responsibility, true national ownership and mutual accountability. The global South must exercise greater leadership in the governance of AIDS responses at all levels. Let the AIDS response be a beacon of global solidarity for health as a human right and set the stage for a future United Nations framework convention on global health.

74. The Secretary-General therefore calls on Member States, and all actors in the response to HIV, to undertake the following actions in forging a revitalized framework for global solidarity to reach universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2015:

(a) Exercise inclusive and accountable leadership, and create space for national debate on priorities, strategic investments, social protection and legal measures to foster broad ownership and access to entitlements, ensuring that people living with and vulnerable to HIV — young and old — are able to act as partners in the governance, design, delivery and evaluation of the response;

(b) Meet fair-share commitments to reach investment needs, whereby international donors realize their long-term, predictable financing commitments and domestic investment in low- and middle-income countries is significantly scaled up, emerging political and economic powers assume their share in international and regional leadership for the AIDS response, and innovative financing mechanisms are expanded;

(c) Actively support and strengthen the capacity of national institutions, community systems and human resources for health to mount evidence-informed and rights-based responses, including by promoting South-South cooperation and using regionally sourced technical support.

C. Break the upward trajectory of costs

75. National responses must move from crisis management to change management. Success depends on focusing resources on actions that will generate results and efficiency while promoting country- and people-owned responses. Strengthening national and community institutions and democratizing problem-

solving will result in more locally appropriate, broadly owned responses and client-centered care at lower costs, and this will drive long-term sustainability.

76. The Secretary-General therefore urges Governments, civil society, the private sector and other actors to commit to the following actions to break the upward trajectory of costs and to deliver more efficient and sustainable programmes:

(a) Catalyse efficiency-generating innovation in treatment access, including through the Treatment 2.0 agenda, by fostering development, in cooperation with the pharmaceutical industry, of more affordable, more resilient, less toxic, longer-acting and easier-to-use drug regimens, by significantly scaling up access to point-of-care diagnostics and clinical monitoring tools, by supporting countries in taking full advantage of the flexibilities inherent in the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health and ensuring that other trade agreements do not undermine these flexibilities, by expanding patent pools, and by enhancing access to all essential medicines at sustainable prices;

(b) Maximize efficiency in non-drug-related costs, including by decentralizing services, task-shifting and building the capacity of community health workers, and strengthening community systems and rights-based approaches in service delivery;

(c) Work with partners to ensure that synergies are exploited between the HIV response and efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including by scaling up efforts to coherently address HIV and tuberculosis coinfection, by leveraging the AIDS response to improve maternal, child and sexual and reproductive health outcomes, and by integrating HIV-related services with food and nutrition support and, where appropriate, services for chronic illnesses, including providing palliative care and addressing opportunistic infections, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and hepatitis C.

D. Foment a social revolution for women and girls

77. Gender inequality, harmful gender norms and violence compromise the ability of women and girls to protect themselves from HIV, and therefore fuel the epidemic. The establishment of UN-Women, as well as the UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign, marks a new phase in the commitment of the United Nations and Member States to gender equality and empowering women. The HIV and women's movements must unite to empower women and girls, especially young women, to know and demand their rights, including protection from sexual coercion and violence and access to gender-sensitive and gender-transformative HIV-related programmes.

78. The Secretary-General therefore urges all stakeholders to ensure that the status of women and girls in our societies and our responses to HIV promote their health, human rights, security and dignity, including through the following actions:

(a) Take specific measures, from households to parliaments, to empower women and girls by reversing harmful gender norms, by ensuring that legal frameworks provide equal rights and equal access to justice and security for women and girls, by protecting the rights of women and girls living with HIV, including their sexual and reproductive health and human rights, by strengthening social protection, care and support programmes for children affected by AIDS, and by

scaling up programmes to eliminate gender-based violence as a cause and consequence of HIV that also engage men and boys;

(b) Ensure national responses meet the HIV-specific needs of women and girls across the span of their lives and actively confront and eradicate gender inequality-driven gaps in access to HIV-related information, services and commodities, including for women and girls affected by humanitarian situations;

(c) Support the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health and the UNAIDS Agenda for Accelerated Country Action for Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV in order to deliver a comprehensive, integrated HIV, tuberculosis and sexual and reproductive health package addressing the broader health needs of women and children, including orphans, leveraging services to prevent vertical HIV transmission as an entry point to deliver a range of services to women, children and families.

E. Ensure mutual accountability for universal access

79. Although sustained political commitment, human resources and financial support are essential for achieving universal access, they do not guarantee results. Robust systems of accountability are key to success. These must start with systems for data collection and analysis that result in policies and programmes tailored to populations; modes of transmission; geographical settings; and programmatic, legal and structural gaps in the response.

80. The Secretary-General therefore recommends that Member States, civil society and other stakeholders commit to forging robust mutual accountability mechanisms for the translation of commitments into action, through the following actions:

(a) Countries set ambitious national targets to fully achieve universal access based on "know your epidemic, know your response" methods; work with UNAIDS to develop a revised framework of core global indicators that respond to new global commitments and goals; mount periodic and inclusive evidence-informed and rights-based reviews of progress towards national targets; and, with the support of UNAIDS, submit a progress report to the Secretary-General in accordance with global reporting on the Millennium Development Goals at the special event of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals in 2013 and subsequent Millennium Development Goal reviews;

(b) Establish annual peer-based regional reviews, organized by competent regional political bodies and with the support of the relevant United Nations regional commissions and UNAIDS, that facilitate the engagement of health and non-traditional yet key ministries such as justice, finance, public security and law enforcement;

(c) Identify substantive roles (such as co-chairing), as well as financial support for participation, in national and regional reviews for delegations of civil society and affected communities, including people living with HIV, people who use drugs, men who have sex with men, people who buy and sell sex and young people.

Global goals for 2015

In committing to the vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths, the international community must hold itself accountable for reaching shared goals that will rewrite the future for generations. The UNAIDS strategy for 2011-2015 presents a number of ambitious goals to lead and galvanize the United Nations system, and the entire global response, to deliver transformative results.

In order to accelerate progress in all the goals set out in the UNAIDS strategy, commit to bringing about measurable impact on the lives of the people most affected and focus efforts on the most critical pillars of the response, the Secretary-General urges that the global community adopt the following goals for 2015:

(a) The prevention imperative is upon us. The human, social, economic and hence political costs of insufficient action will be extremely high. The Secretary-General therefore urges Member States to commit to reducing by 50 per cent sexual transmission of HIV — including among key populations, such as young people and men who have sex with men and in the context of sex work — and to preventing all new HIV infections as a result of injecting drug use;

(b) Global solidarity has brought treatment to more than 6 million people living with HIV. Through innovation, in drugs, pricing and delivery systems, it is possible to bring down costs, prevent new infections and achieve universal access to treatment. The Secretary-General therefore calls on Member States to ensure that 13 million people are receiving HIV treatment by 2015;

(c) Tuberculosis remains the leading cause of death among people living with HIV, despite being preventable and curable. The Secretary-General therefore calls on Member States to commit to reducing by 50 per cent tuberculosis deaths among people living with HIV;

(d) It is a grave global injustice that 370,000 newborns contract HIV in low- and middle-income countries each year, while vertical transmission has been virtually eliminated in high-income countries. The Secretary-General therefore calls on Member States to come together to eliminate vertical transmission of HIV, and in so doing, keep mothers alive, prevent children from becoming orphans and improve the health of women, children and families;

(e) Children continue to be severely impacted by the epidemic, with great demands placed on caregivers. Children who have lost both parents have less access to education than non-orphans. The Secretary-General therefore urges Member States to commit to ensuring that the most vulnerable children affected by AIDS are supported to stay in school, including through the creation of safe and non-stigmatizing learning environments and the expansion of social protection and care and support programmes for the most vulnerable families, with a target of equal education access between orphans and non-orphans by 2015;

(f) Institutionalized discrimination targeted at people living with HIV continues to undermine every effort made in the AIDS response. The Secretary-General therefore urges Member States to commit to reducing by 50 per cent the number of countries with HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay and residence.

81. It is the firm conviction of the Secretary-General that these six goals can be achieved. This conviction is based on the history of the AIDS response: a history marked by human courage and led by people living with HIV, which has refashioned human aspirations, transformed institutions and delivered remarkable results against inimitable odds.

82. The United Nations has played an important part in this history. UNAIDS continues to be at the centre of these efforts. In the midst of a proliferation of development efforts, UNAIDS has modelled United Nations reform in action and has united the global community around a shared agenda, conveying the demands of the people and catalysing commitment and action at all levels.

83. By working together to execute these recommendations, the international community can achieve these goals by 2015, and take an extraordinary and unified step towards a world of "zero, zero, zero".

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Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 36
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 23 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of the violations of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) committed by Israel during the month of February 2011 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 36, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf Salam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

11-28190 (E) 010411 050411

Please recycle

Annex to the identical letters dated 23 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and President of the Security Council

Topic: Israeli violations, acts of aggression and activities during the month of February 2011

Date	*Time*	*Land violations*
1 February 2011	1155	A member of an Israeli enemy patrol proceeded from position *ghayn*-21 (south of Dahirah Farm) and took photographs of a soldier at the Lebanese Army position of Dahirah.
2 February 2011	1455	An Israeli enemy patrol halted opposite the Fatimah Gate, where its members directed profanities at personnel of the Lebanese Army observation post of Fatimah Gate.
5 February 2011	0800	Two of the Israeli enemy crossed the technical fence separating the area of the occupied Shab'a Farms with regard to which Lebanon maintains a claim from the liberated area on the outskirts of the town of Kafr Shuba, penetrating some 20 metres into Lebanese territory and remaining there for two minutes.
	1120	An Israeli enemy patrol halted opposite the Lebanese Army checkpoint at Udaysah. Its members took up combat positions facing the checkpoint personnel.
	1550	The members of an Israeli enemy patrol pointed 12.7 mm machine guns towards personnel of the Lebanese Army checkpoint at Udaysah.
6 February 2011	0850	An Israeli enemy Humvee at point *ghayn*-21 (south of Dahirah Farm) pointed a 12.7 mm machine gun towards a soldier at the Lebanese Army position of Dahirah.
10 February 2011	0730	Four of the Israeli enemy crossed the technical fence separating the area of the occupied Shab'a Farms with regard to which Lebanon maintains a claim from the liberated area on the outskirts of the town of Kafr Shuba, penetrating some 20 metres into Lebanese territory and remaining there for two minutes.
	1530	An Israeli enemy patrol halted opposite the Fatimah Gate, where its members directed profanities, obscene gestures and provocations at personnel of the Lebanese Army observation post of Fatimah Gate.
	1635	Members of an enemy Israeli enemy patrol pointed weapons towards the Lebanese Army observation post of Fatimah Gate.
11 February 2011	1611	Members of an Israeli enemy patrol photographed the Fatima Gate garden.

12 February 2011	0830	An Israeli enemy patrol crossed the technical fence between the area with regard to which Lebanon maintains a claim and the points of Jabal al-Summaqah (*zay*-17) and Ruwaysat al-Alam (*zay*-18) on the outskirts of Kafr Shuba. They remained there for two minutes.
14 February 2011	2205	While proceeding from point *ghayn*-21 (south of Dahirah Farm) to point *ghayn*-20 (Dahirah Gate), an Israeli enemy patrol directed a searchlight towards a soldier at the Lebanese Army position of Dahirah.
15 February 2011	1000	The Israeli enemy released five helium balloons from point *ghayn*-44 (Biranit), which moved into Lebanese territory between Ayta al-Sha'b and Rumaysh.
17 February 2011	0840	The members of an Israeli enemy patrol pointed 12.7 mm machine guns towards the Lebanese Army checkpoint of Udaysah.
	1630	As two Israeli enemy Merkava tanks were moving from inside occupied territory towards position *ghayn*-20 (Dahirah Gate), one of the tanks directed its gun towards the Lebanese Army positions of Tall al-Ghaba'in and Al-Butayshiyyah.
	1940	An Israeli enemy patrol facing the town of Mays al-Jabal directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territory until 0600 hours on 19 February.
19 February 2011	1850	An Israeli enemy patrol facing the Lebanese Army position of Mays al-Jabal directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territory for 40 minutes.
	2240	An Israeli enemy patrol facing the Lebanese Army position of Mays al-Jabal directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territory for 10 minutes.
22 February 2011	0940	An Israeli enemy patrol at position *ghayn*-9 (Labbunah/Jabal al-Mishqaf-3) took photographs of a Lebanese Army patrol.
24 February 2011	1030	As the citizen Muhammad Ali Salamah was spraying insecticides on his olive trees on the outskirts of Blida, an Israeli enemy patrol shouted at him and forced him to leave the grove, which he did.
	1420	As an Israeli Hummer was proceeding from position *ghayn*-73 (Labbunah/Jabal al-Mishqaf-4) to point *ghayn*-4 (east of the Dikiyya Gate), a passenger took pictures of Lebanese territory with a mounted camera.
25 February 2011	2135	An Israeli enemy patrol directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territory and the Lebanese Army position of Manarah.

Date	*Time*	*Sea violations*
5 February 2011	2305	An Israeli enemy military launch twice directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters for 10 seconds on each occasion.
8 February 2011	0255	An Israeli enemy military launch directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters and sounded warning sirens on a number of occasions for five seconds each time.
13 February 2011	1830	An Israeli enemy military launch fired two flare shells, which landed in Lebanese territorial waters 1.2 miles north of the line of buoys.
15 February 2011	0045	On three occasions, an Israeli enemy military launch directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters for 30 seconds each time.
22 February 2011	1935	An Israeli enemy military launch directed a searchlight for 20 seconds towards the Lebanese Army position of Ra's Naqurah and towards two Lebanese fishing launches within Lebanese territorial waters.
	1945	An Israeli enemy military launch directed a searchlight towards the Lebanese Army position of Ra's Naqurah for 25 seconds.
	1955 2020	An Israeli enemy military launch directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters for 1.20 minutes on a number of occasions.
23 February 2011	0200	An Israeli enemy military launch directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters for two minutes on eight occasions.
	1945	An Israeli enemy military launch directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters for 1.5 minutes on two occasions.
24 February 2011	1840	An Israeli enemy military launch directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters for one minute.
25 February 2011	2210	An Israeli enemy military launch directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters for 10 seconds.

Date	*Time*	*Air violations*
2 February 2011	0445	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It circled over the South before leaving at 0500 hours.
	0900	Six Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace. They entered over Rumaysh and circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1045 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	1322	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace. They entered over Kafr Kila and circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1445 hours over the sea off Naqurah.
	2225	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It entered over Alma al-Sha'b and circled over the southern regions before leaving on 3 February at 0645 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.

3 February 2011	1235	An Israeli enemy warplane violated Lebanese airspace. It circled over the South before leaving at 1240 hours.
6 February 2011	0745	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It entered over Naqurah and circled over the southern regions before leaving at 1530 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	0755	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It entered over Naqurah and circled over the southern regions before leaving at 1530 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	1439	An Israeli enemy warplane violated Lebanese airspace. It circled over the South before leaving at 1455 hours.
	1545	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It entered over the sea off Tyre and circled over the sea between Naqurah and Sidon before leaving at 1850 hours over Naqurah.
7 February 2011	0845	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace. They entered over Kafr Kila and circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1040 hours over Rumaysh.
	1150	An Israeli enemy warplane violated Lebanese airspace. It circled over the South before leaving at 1200 hours.
8 February 2011	1355	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace. They entered over Alma al-Sha'b and circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1500 hours over Rumaysh.
	2005	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It entered over Rumaysh and circled over the southern regions and the Western Bekaa before leaving at 2245 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
9 February 2011	0635	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It entered over Naqurah and circled over the Riyaq-Baalbek areas before leaving at 1205 hours over Rumaysh.
	0735	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It entered over Naqurah and circled over the southern regions and the western Bekaa before leaving at 1245 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	1450	An Israeli enemy warplane violated Lebanese airspace. It circled over the South before leaving at 1610 hours.
11 February 2011	1741	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It circled over the South before leaving at 2305 hours.
12 February 2011	0603	An Israeli enemy warplane violated Lebanese airspace. It circled over the South before leaving at 1802 hours.
14 February 2011	1100	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace. They entered over the sea to the west of Naqurah and circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1250 hours over the sea to the west of Naqurah.

17 February 2011	2055	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace. They circled over the South before leaving at 2251 hours.
	2100	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It entered over the sea off Naqurah and circled over the coast between Sidon and Naqurah before leaving at 2210 hours over the sea off Naqurah.
18 February 2011	0553	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It circled over the South before leaving at 0610 hours.
	0740	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It entered over Naqurah and circled over the southern regions before leaving at 1810 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	0755	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It entered over Naqurah and circled over Beirut and its suburbs before leaving at 1800 hours over Naqurah.
	1645	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It entered over the sea off Tyre and circled over the sea between Sidon and Tyre before leaving at 1910 hours over the sea off Naqurah.
	1900	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It entered over the sea off Naqurah and circled over the sea between Sidon and Naqurah before leaving at 2205 hours over Naqurah.
19 February 2011	0556	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It circled over the South before leaving at 0610 hours.
	0705	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It entered over Alma al-Sha'b and circled over the Bekaa, Beirut and its suburbs and the South before leaving at 1435 hours over Naqurah.
	0715	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It entered over Naqurah and circled over the southern regions and Iqlim al-Kharrub before leaving at 1115 hours over Naqurah.
	0833	Six Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace. They entered over Rumaysh and circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1010 hours over the sea off Naqurah.
22 February 2011	1355	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It entered over the sea off Tyre and circled over the South and Beirut and its suburbs before leaving at 2330 hours over Rumaysh.
	1535	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It entered over the sea off Tyre and circled over the sea between Sidon and Naqurah before leaving at 1910 hours over the sea off Naqurah.
	2300	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It entered over Rumaysh and circled over the South before leaving on 23 February at 0645 hours over Rumaysh.

23 February 2011	0701	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It circled over the South before leaving at 0835 hours.
	0855	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace. They entered over Rumaysh and circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 0930 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	0910	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace. They entered over Aytarun and circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1100 hours over Rumaysh.
	0913	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace. They entered over Aytarun and circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 0935 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	0920	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It circled over the South before leaving at 0922 hours.
	1050	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It entered over the sea off Tyre and circled over all regions of the South before leaving at 1900 hours over Naqurah.
	1848	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace. They circled over the South before leaving at 1853 hours.
	1940	An Israeli enemy warplane violated Lebanese airspace. It circled over the South before leaving at 1941 hours.
	2059	An Israeli enemy warplane violated Lebanese airspace. It circled over the South before leaving at 2103 hours.
24 February 2011	1012	Six Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace. They entered over Rumaysh and circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1045 hours over the sea to the west of Naqurah.
	1015	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace. They entered over the sea to the west of Jubayl (Byblos) and circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1050 hours over Naqurah.
	1020	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace. They entered over the sea to the west of Juniyah and circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1150 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	1720	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It entered over Naqurah and circled over the southern regions before leaving at 1910 hours over Rumaysh.
28 February 2011	0805	An Israeli enemy warplane violated Lebanese airspace. It circled over the South before leaving at 0810 hours.
	1915	An Israeli enemy observation balloon was sighted over Tyre. It circled several times before disappearing from view at 1925 hours.

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Security Council

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Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 36
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 25 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a complaint concerning Israeli enemy forces who, on 22 March 2011, abducted two Lebanese shepherds from within Lebanese territory (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as an official document of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 36, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

11-28184 (E) 290311 300311

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Annex to the identical letters dated 25 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The Lebanese Republic

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants

At 11.15 a.m. on 22 March 2011, an eight-man Israeli enemy army patrol crossed the Blue Line in the Wadi Qatmun area of southern Lebanon, in the vicinity of Rumaysh, and entered Lebanese territory. There they came upon two Lebanese shepherds, Leon Al-Alam and Muhammad Zahra, who were tending their flocks on the Lebanese side of the Blue Line. Members of the Israeli patrol threatened the two shepherds with their weapons, put them in restraints and forcibly removed them to occupied Palestinian territory. At 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 23 March 2011, they were handed over to the Lebanese Army at Ra's Naqurah through the liaison unit of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). At 1 p.m. on the same day, subsequent to the handover of Lebanese citizens Leon Al-Alam and Muhammad Zahra, a Lebanese Army investigation team, with the help of a UNIFIL team, undertook a field inspection of the area with the two shepherds who had been abducted from that place. Both parties were satisfied that the two shepherds had been abducted from within Lebanese territory

This violation represents a flagrant breach of Lebanese sovereignty, Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), international law and the Charter of the United Nations, and yet again confirms Israel's contempt for international resolutions and its determination to continue to pursue its aggressive and provocative policies and to continually threaten international peace and security. Lebanon has repeatedly complained of the Israeli enemy forces' continual abductions of helpless Lebanese civilians, who are beaten and subjected to mental and physical injury, thereby affirming Israel's determination to pursue a policy of aggression against Lebanon. Lebanon demands that the Security Council should fulfil its responsibilities and take appropriate measures to prevail upon Israel to cease its daily violations of Lebanese sovereignty, abandon its aggressive policy towards Lebanese citizens and withdraw from all Lebanese territory, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 1701 (2006).

United Nations A/65/800

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Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 143
Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Reformed procedures for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/19 B, the 2011 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment was convened from 17 to 28 January 2011 to conduct a comprehensive review of reimbursement rates and to update the major equipment, self-sustainment and medical support services categories.

The 2011 Working Group comprised 354 technical, financial and medical experts from 95 Member States and successfully carried out a comprehensive review of contingent-owned equipment reimbursement rates. In its report (A/C.5/65/16), the 2011 Working Group proposed new definitions and new reimbursement rates for the categories of major equipment, self-sustainment and medical support services.

The present report sets out the cost implications of implementing the recommendations of the 2011 Working Group. Should the General Assembly approve, with effect from 1 July 2011, the recommendations of the 2011 Working Group, additional resource requirements estimated in the total amount of $16.3 million would be reported in the context of financial performance reports for individual peacekeeping operations for the 2011/12 period, at which time additional appropriations might be sought from the General Assembly, if necessary.

The action to be taken by the General Assembly is set out in chapter IV of the present report.

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I. Introduction

1. In its report dated 28 January 2000 (A/C.5/54/49), the Phase V Working Group on reform procedures for determining reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment recommended formats for the collection and consolidation of national cost data from Member States for a comprehensive review, and the application of a new average index for each category based on national cost data submitted by Member States, to determine the new reimbursement rates. By its resolution 54/19 B, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Phase V Working Group.

2. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/19 B, the Secretary-General convened the 2011 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment for not less than 10 working days to carry out a comprehensive review of the contingent-owned equipment system and reimbursement rates, in accordance with the formats established by the Phase V Working Group.

3. The preparations for the meetings of the 2011 Working Group started in December 2008 with a request by the Secretariat for national cost data from Member States for a comprehensive review of contingent-owned equipment (COE) reimbursement rates, using 2009 as a base year. In October 2010, the Secretariat invited Member States to participate in the meetings of the 2011 Working Group, and distributed consolidated national cost data from 48 Member States and 26 issue papers from 9 Member States. Updated national cost data from 50 Member States, 33 issue papers from 10 Member States and 13 issue papers from the Secretariat were distributed to Member States in December 2010. The Secretariat provided a comprehensive briefing to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations on the preparations for the meetings of the 2011 Working Group in January, July and November 2010.

4. The 2011 Working Group met in New York from 17 to 28 January 2011 to conduct a comprehensive review of reimbursement rates for major equipment, self-sustainment and medical support services, and to review the COE system. The Chair of the 2011 Working Group transmitted its report (A/C.5/65/16) to the Fifth Committee. The report of the 2011 Working Group and its annexes should be read in conjunction with the present report.

II. Summary of proposals and recommendations

A. Comprehensive review of contingent-owned equipment reimbursement rates for major equipment, self-sustainment and medical support services: financial impact of the recommendations of the 2011 Working Group

1. Increase in reimbursement rates

5. The 2011 Working Group conducted a comprehensive review of reimbursement rates for major equipment, self-sustainment and medical support services on the basis of the statistical model established by the Phase V Working Group. The 2011 Working Group recommended revised rates for major equipment, self-sustainment and medical support services (see A/C.5/65/16, annexes 1.1, 2 and 5.1).

6. The overall impact of all changes in reimbursement rates will result in an increase of approximately 1.7 per cent in the major equipment portion of the United Nations peacekeeping budget and an increase of approximately 1.8 per cent in the self-sustainment portion of the peacekeeping budget based on draft and signed memorandums of understanding (MOUs) as at 1 March 2011. The aforementioned overall increase is due to the recommended net average increase of 1.3 per cent for major equipment reimbursement rates, including medical equipment, and 2.1 per cent for self-sustainment reimbursement rates, including medical categories. Those increases will have an impact on the annual peacekeeping budget of $15.6 million (see annex II).

2. Revision of special case reimbursement rates

7. The 2011 Working Group recommended that special case reimbursement rates be reviewed during each triennial Working Group meeting. The revision of special case reimbursement rates should be linked to the average revision in major equipment rates recommended by the Working Group. Chapter 5 of the COE Manual should be amended by adding a new paragraph 11 and revising paragraph 9 (b) to reflect this recommendation. The Secretariat welcomes this recommendation, as it will result in a consistent methodology for revision and calculation of reimbursement rates for special case equipment items. The implementation of this recommendation will entail an annual cost of $206,129 (see annex II).

3. Addition of portable X-ray machines to level II hospitals

8. The 2011 Working Group recommended the addition of one portable X-ray machine to the major equipment list of level II hospitals. The Secretariat supports this recommendation, as portable X-ray machines are essential equipment in level II hospitals. The annual wet lease cost of one portable X-ray machine is $11,745. The financial implication of implementing this recommendation is $187,920 per annum (see annex II), assuming that one portable X-ray machine will be deployed as mandatory equipment to all level II hospitals. (Note: at the time of the 2011 Working Group meetings, there were 16 level II hospitals deployed in field missions.)

4. Addition of ultrasound machines to level II hospitals and CT scanners as special case equipment for level III hospitals

9. The 2011 Working Group recommended the addition of one ultrasound machine to the major equipment list of level II hospitals. It also recommended that CT scanners be treated as special case equipment instead of optional equipment in level III hospitals. The Secretariat welcomes this recommendation as the extended investigative radiological capability of ultrasound machines is considered essential to level II hospitals. The Secretariat also supports the recommendation that the deployment of CT scanners should be determined based on operational requirements and treated as a special case for the purpose of reimbursement.

10. The annual wet lease cost of one ultrasound machine is $7,830. The financial implication of implementing this recommendation is $125,280 per annum (see annex II), assuming that one ultrasound machine will be deployed as mandatory equipment to all level II hospitals. (Note: at the time of the 2011 Working Group meetings, there were 16 level II hospitals deployed in field missions.) The financial implications of deploying CT scanners as special case equipment to level III

hospitals could not be determined at this point as the reimbursement rate of special case equipment will be determined upon submission in the future by troop/police-contributing countries of the information required, e.g., generic fair market value, estimated useful life and estimated monthly maintenance costs of special case equipment.

5. Additional capability modules for level II hospitals

11. The 2011 Working Group recommended that when required, orthopaedic modules, gynaecology modules and additional internal medicine modules should be added to level II hospitals as additional capabilities (see A/C.5/65/16, annex 6). The Working Group discussed the additional diagnostic imaging module and decided that further definition of the module should be addressed at a later stage.

12. The Secretariat welcomes this recommendation. Additional capability modules for level II hospitals are developed in an overall modular medical support concept which was adopted by the General Assembly in 2008. They will enhance the medical support facilities of level II hospitals to better meet the demand for support in field missions. To implement this recommendation, specialized personnel and equipment will be required (see A/C.5/65/16, annex 6). The annual wet lease costs of equipment for an orthopaedic module and a gynaecology module are $15,000 and $2,832 respectively. There is no equipment required for the additional internal medicine module. Accordingly, the financial implications of deploying an orthopaedic module and a gynaecology module are $120,000 per annum and $22,656 per annum respectively (see annex II), assuming that an orthopaedic module and a gynaecology module will be deployed to 50 per cent of level II hospitals, based on operational requirements.

B. Contingent-owned equipment system

1. List of "special cases" and recommended additional standard reimbursement rates for major equipment

13. The 2011 Working Group recommended that annex A to chapter 8 of the COE Manual be revised and a list of approved special cases be established, including all special cases suggested by the Secretariat or used in three or more peacekeeping missions or by two or more troop/police-contributing countries (see A/C.5/65, annex 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4). It also recommended a generic fair market value and a standard reimbursement rate for each approved special case of major equipment (see A/C.5/65, annex 3.1). The Working Group reiterated that when a generic rate already exists for major equipment, no special case should be created for similar items. It recommended that new text be added at the end of paragraph 5 of chapter 5 of the COE Manual: "If a special case item still in process is categorized in the COE Manual as major equipment, this item should no longer be regarded as special case". It also recommended that the Secretariat provide a list of special case items that should be included as additional major equipment prior to the next Working Group being convened.

14. The Secretariat supports the recommendations of the Working Group, given that special cases frequently cause delays in the negotiation of MOUs and the reimbursement process. The Secretariat will reflect the amendments in chapters 5

and 8 of the COE Manual and prepare a list of special cases that should have a standard reimbursement rate for presentation to the next Working Group for its review.

2. Reclassification of major equipment deployed in field missions

15. The 2011 Working Group recommended that the COE verification team in the field may forward any observation to the Secretariat but has no prerogative to change the classification of major equipment agreed upon by the Secretariat and troop/police-contributing countries in the MOU. Those countries and the Secretariat should undertake any dispute resolution through bilateral negotiations to resolve any issues that have arisen.

16. The Secretariat agrees with this recommendation and notes that the COE verification team should report actual equipment deployed, leaving the Secretariat and the troop/police-contributing countries to discuss possible amendments to the MOU.

3. Incorporation of letter of assist procedures in the Contingent-Owned Equipment Manual

17. The 2011 Working Group recommended a new text, to be included in annex A to chapter 4 of the COE Manual, providing a definition of a letter of assist (LOA) and describing its usage, general terms, conditions, etc. The Secretariat supports the recommendation of the Working Group. The incorporation of the LOA procedure into the COE Manual will provide more details and guidance to troop/police-contributing countries.

4. Reimbursement system for air assets including military utility helicopters

18. The 2011 Working Group recommended that the COE Manual should include the LOA provisions that the United Nations is responsible for the reimbursement of the cost of ammunition expended for training exercises and also that it is United Nations responsibility to provide a firing range in the mission area of responsibility or at a suitable alternative location, subject to a bilateral agreement between the Government in question and the United Nations. The Secretariat supports this recommendation.

5. Clarification of the Contingent-Owned Equipment Manual regarding United Nations responsibility for mission movement control

19. The 2011 Working Group recommended that the COE Manual and the generic guidelines for troop/police-contributing countries should be amended to reinforce, in paragraphs 12 and 14 of chapter 2 of the Manual, the fact that the United Nations is responsible for coordination and for providing guidance for all mission movement control operations. The Working Group also recommended that the costs associated with intra-mission transportation be absorbed by the missions, where there is a requirement to transport spare parts and consumables from authorized points of entry to a mission to other destinations within the mission area.

20. The Secretariat supports the recommendation of the Working Group, as it is expected that one unified point responsible for mission movement control will more effectively facilitate local cooperation with host nation authorities.

6. Permanent mission web module

21. The 2011 Working Group recommended that the permanent mission web module secure website be made available for use by troop/police-contributing countries not later than the end of 2011. The database should provide information to these countries regarding MOUs, LOAs, claims and other useful reports. The Working Group also recommended that access to the web portal data should be restricted to the national data of each troop/police-contributing country and ensure a high level of security.

22. The Secretariat supports the recommendation of the Working Group. The web module is currently under development by the Secretariat and will be available for use in 2011. This recommendation has no financial implication for the peacekeeping budget, as the module is being developed in house by existing Secretariat staff.

7. Compliance with international mine action standards

23. The 2011 Working Group recommended that a footnote be added to annex A to chapter 8 of the COE Manual to read "Demining and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) equipment should be able to perform in compliance with international mine action standards".

24. The Secretariat welcomes the recommendation. Globally, the mine action community operates within those standards. Currently, there are no direct references in the COE Manual for demining and EOD equipment to comply with international mine action standards. The adoption of a commonly accepted set of standards will result in increased clearance capacity of troop/police-contributing countries.

8. Introduction of police armoured protected vehicles and police crowd control vehicles

25. The 2011 Working Group recommended that the definitions of a police armoured protected vehicle and of a police crowd control vehicle be added after paragraph 34 of annex A to chapter 3 of the COE Manual and establish generic fair market values and standard dry/wet lease reimbursement rates, including painting/repainting, for these two types of vehicle.

26. The Secretariat supports the recommendation of the Working Group, as the armoured vehicles and personnel carriers operationally required by formed police units are different from the military unit requirements reflected in the 2008 COE Manual.

9. Concepts of consumables and excessive costs in using major equipment

27. The 2011 Working Group recommended that excessive costs incurred by troop/police-contributing countries for materials and minor equipment, which is not a part of the MOU reimbursement, should be incorporated in an LOA to ensure a fair reimbursement.

28. The Secretariat supports the recommendation of the Working Group. In some field missions, troop/police-contributing countries have deployed specialized major equipment under wet lease, such as well-drilling rigs, the normal operation of which requires some associated costly minor equipment and consumables to be left "in the ground" in order to complete drilling tasks. Therefore, these costs should be

specified and compensated under a specific LOA to ensure fair reimbursement for troop/police-contributing countries.

10. Seat belts in commercial pattern vehicles

29. The 2011 Working Group recommended that all newly deployed commercial pattern vehicles brought to new and existing missions be equipped with standard seat belts. The Working Group also recommended that troop/police-contributing countries be encouraged to install standard seat belts for already deployed and unequipped commercial pattern vehicles at their own cost.

30. The Secretariat welcomes the recommendations of the Working Group. The implementation of these recommendations should help reduce the number of casualties and fatalities caused by accidents involving commercial pattern vehicles.

11. Repetition of results of the last self-sustainment verification report in case of internal redeployment

31. The 2011 Working Group recommended that text be reflected in paragraph 17 of chapter 3 of the COE Manual reading: "where a unit has to fully or partially redeploy within a mission area, the time of the next periodic inspection in the new location will be carried out on a date to be jointly determined by the mission and the unit authorities".

32. The Secretariat supports the recommendation of the Working Group. Troops and police who are redeployed within a mission area for operational reasons need to become self-sustaining within a reasonable agreed time frame in various self-sustainment categories in the new location.

12. Authorized accommodation to troops provided by the United Nations

33. The 2011 Working Group recommended the addition of a new text to annex B to chapter 3 of the COE Manual and the generic guidelines for troop-contributing countries to ensure that proper accommodation for aviation unit aircrews is provided by either the United Nations or troop/police-contributing countries. The Working Group recommended that pilots be provided with standard single room accommodation, and other aircrew be accommodated in shared rooms. The Secretariat welcomes this recommendation, as it will provide aircrew with sufficient accommodation space for proper rest to ensure safe conduct of flights.

34. The 2011 Working Group recommended that where a contingent is required to relocate its base camp for operational reasons, it may submit a claim to the United Nations for reimbursement of the extra and reasonable costs associated with reinstalling the self-sustainment services that are its responsibility (e.g. accommodation, tentage, field defence stores, Internet, catering, etc.) in the new location. It is recommended that chapters 2, 3 and 8 of the COE Manual be amended accordingly. The Secretariat welcomes this recommendation.

35. The Working Group also recommended that the United Nations intensify efforts to provide contingents with standardized hard-walled accommodation within the stipulated six months following initial deployment, as stated in the current COE Manual. The Secretariat supports this recommendation.

13. Clarification of minor engineering tasks under self-sustainment

36. The 2011 Working Group recommended that the proposed guidance document clarifying the responsibilities of the field mission and troop/police-contributing countries under "minor engineering" self-sustainment be added to all appropriate chapters of the COE Manual to specify United Nations responsibilities for minor engineering tasks with respect to the repair and maintenance of United Nations-owned equipment (UNOE). The Working Group also recommended that any variations or contingencies not covered by the proposed guidance document should be dealt with by the United Nations on a case-by-case basis.

37. The Secretariat supports the recommendations. Currently the delineation of responsibility between the United Nations and troop/police-contributing countries with regard to minor engineering is not clearly defined in the COE Manual.

14. Requirement for self-sustainment explosive ordnance disposal after the initial deployment

38. The 2011 Working Group recommended that the requirement for EOD self-sustainment be reviewed 18 months after forces deploy. At that point, if it is determined that any EOD threat could be dealt with at mission force level, troop/police-contributing countries would be reimbursed for six months after an official communication of this determination was made to their contingents.

39. The Secretariat welcomes the recommendation. Once accommodation areas are secured and cleared of any explosive ordnance, the responsibility for EOD could be transferred to a force level engineering unit to secure the entire camp area.

15. Split laundry and cleaning self-sustainment category

40. The 2011 Working Group recommended that chapters 3 and 8 of the COE Manual be amended to split laundry and cleaning into two distinct categories using the following rates: 40 per cent for laundry at $9.00 per person per month; and 60 per cent for cleaning at $13.51 per person per month, as interim rates. The Working Group also recommended that the agreed interim rates be reviewed after three years, utilizing the newly collected data.

41. The Secretariat supports these recommendations. Currently laundry and cleaning are grouped in the same self-sustainment category with a rate of $22.51 per person per month. However, laundry and cleaning are two distinct functions. Laundry refers to keeping clothing clean and tidy while cleaning refers to keeping installations and facilities clean and sanitized. They should be split and reimbursed separately.

16. Review of mission factors

42. The 2011 Working Group recommended that the Secretariat conduct a comprehensive review of mission factors to optimize their full utilization within the existing mission factor ceilings and provide a progress report and development of options on an annual basis. The Working Group also recommended that different mission factors be calculated and applied to different geographic areas within a mission area and that the regions and mission factors be determined by a technical survey team and reviewed periodically.

43. The Secretariat welcomes the recommendations of the Working Group. Both the Secretariat and the Working Group recognized the need for a thorough evaluation of the existing mission factor decision process. It was noted that working conditions have changed significantly in some complex missions. It was also noted that there is a need for different mission factors in some big and complex missions with substantial differences in operating conditions and terrain profiles within the area of operations of the mission, such as the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). The implementation of this recommendation will ensure the validity and fairness of the application of mission factors in view of the current working conditions, size, complexity and different regional operating conditions within missions such as UNAMID and MONUSCO.

17. Obligatory review of mission factors after a natural disaster

44. The 2011 Working Group recommended that, following the occurrence of a natural disaster in a peacekeeping mission area, the United Nations should assess the situation and determine which mission factors should be re-evaluated in accordance with the prevailing conditions but within the ceilings of the existing mission factors. The possible changes in mission factors and reimbursement rates will be temporary and will be maintained only for the period that the United Nations recognizes the significantly changed circumstances.

45. The Secretariat supports the recommendations of the Working Group. Some troop/police-contributing countries deployed to a peacekeeping mission have been affected by a natural disaster and have statistics to show the increased operational costs that they have had to absorb as a result.

18. Special equipment for aviation contingents

46. The 2011 Working Group recommended that a recommended list of special equipment for aviation contingents be incorporated into the COE Manual and that special flight equipment under procedures applicable to major equipment as a special case item be reimbursed.

47. The Secretariat supports the recommendations of the 2011 Working Group. In order to conduct safe air operations, troop-contributing countries have to provide aircrew with special kit, including special clothes, shoes, helmet, etc. The implementation of the recommendations will standardize the reimbursement procedure for this special kit.

19. Requirement for high-frequency radio sets for air contingents

48. The 2011 Working Group recommended that the provision of specific types, numbers or capabilities of equipment needed to receive self-sustainment reimbursement be based on meeting the operational requirements as agreed between the United Nations and troop/police-contributing countries and reflected in the MOU. It is recommended that chapter 3 of the COE Manual be amended accordingly. The Secretariat supports the recommendation.

III. Conclusion

49. The Secretariat expresses its appreciation to the 2011 Working Group for the enormous task of carrying out a comprehensive review of large volumes of data and for the guidance it has provided. The proposed revised standards and procedures and other recommendations will benefit the Secretariat by improving the structure of the COE system and provide more transparent and enhanced verification tools.

50. The Secretariat requests Member States to submit national cost data no later than two months prior to the meeting of the next Working Group, to allow time for the consolidation and validation of such data and issue papers no later than one month prior to the convening of the next Working Group.

IV. Actions to be taken by the General Assembly

51. **The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the report of the 2011 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment (A/C.5/65/16) are set out below:**

(a) Approve the new reimbursement rates as listed in annex 1.1 for major equipment; annex 2 for self-sustainment; and annex 5.1 for major medical equipment;

(b) In regard to "special cases" major equipment:

(i) Approve the reimbursement rates for new items and new categories of major equipment in annexes 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4;

(ii) Adopt the addition of a new paragraph to the determination of rates of "special cases";

(c) Approve United Nations' responsibility for the reimbursement, under an LOA, of the cost of ammunition expended for training exercises and the provision of suitable firing ranges for helicopters;

(d) Take note of the definition and reimbursement rates of police armoured protected vehicles and police crowd control vehicles;

(e) Approve the proposed concepts of consumables and excessive costs of using major equipment;

(f) In regard to authorized accommodation to troops provided by the United Nations:

(i) Approve the proposed guidelines for provision of accommodation for aviation unit aircrew;

(ii) Approve the reimbursement of extra and reasonable cost for troop/police-contributing countries due to the required relocation of base camp;

(g) Approve the proposed guidance document on minor engineering tasks under self-sustainment (annex 4);

(h) Approve the requirement for EOD self-sustainment to be reviewed 18 months after forces deploy;

(i) Approve the split and reimbursement rates for laundry and cleaning categories;

(j) In regard to mission factors:

(i) Approve an annual comprehensive review of mission factors within the existing mission factor ceilings;

(ii) Approve the application of different mission factors to different geographic areas within a mission area;

(iii) Approve the obligatory revision of mission factors after a natural disaster;

(k) Approve the incorporation of a recommended list of special equipment for aviation contingents under procedures applicable to special case items;

(l) Approve the revision to high-frequency radio set requirements for air contingents;

(m) Approve the addition of a portable X-ray machine to level II hospitals;

(n) Approve the addition of an ultrasound machine to level II hospitals and CT scanners as special case equipment for level III hospitals;

(o) Approve the addition of orthopaedic, gynaecology and internal medicine modules to level II hospitals as additional capability modules, when required.

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Annex I

Recommendations of the 2011 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment and of the Secretariat

Item	*Action to be undertaken by the General Assembly*	*Secretariat view*
1. Comprehensive review of COE reimbursement rates	Approve the new reimbursement rates as listed in annex 1.1 for major equipment; annex 2 for self-sustainment; and annex 5.1 for medical major equipment	Recommends approval
2. Special cases: (i) new items of major equipment; (ii) reimbursement rates of "special cases"	(i) Approve the reimbursement rates for new items and new categories of major equipment in annexes 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4 (ii) Adopt the addition of a new paragraph to the determination of rates of "special cases"	Recommends approval
3. Reimbursement system for air assets including military utility helicopters	Approve United Nations responsibility for reimbursement, under an LOA, of the cost of ammunition expended for training exercises and the provision of suitable firing ranges for helicopters	Recommends approval
4. Introduction of police armoured protected vehicles and police crowd control vehicles	Take note of the definition and reimbursement rates of police armoured protected vehicles and police crowd control vehicles	Recommends approval
5. Concepts of consumables and excessive costs of using major equipment	Approve the proposed concepts of consumables and excessive costs of using major equipment	Recommends approval
6. Authorized accommodation for troops provided by the United Nations: (i) Aviation unit; (ii) Relocation of base camp	(i) Approve the proposed guidelines for provision of accommodation for aviation unit aircrews; (ii) Approve the reimbursement of extra and reasonable cost for troop/police-contributing countries due to the required relocation of base camp	Recommends approval Recommends approval
7. Clarification of minor engineering tasks under self-sustainment	Approve the proposed guidance document on minor engineering tasks under self-sustainment (annex 4)	Recommends approval
8. Requirement for self-sustainment EOD after initial deployment	Approve the requirement for EOD self-sustainment to be reviewed 18 months after forces deploy	Recommends approval
9. Split the laundry and cleaning self-sustainment category	Approve the split and reimbursement rates for the laundry and cleaning category	Recommends approval

Item	*Action to be undertaken by the General Assembly*	*Secretariat view*
10. Review of mission factors	(i) Approve an annual comprehensive review of mission factors within existing mission factor ceilings;	Recommends approval
	(ii) Approve the application of different mission factors to different geographic areas within a mission area;	Recommends approval
	(iii) Approve the obligatory revision of mission factors after a natural disaster	Recommends approval
11. Special equipment for aviation contingents	Approve the incorporation of a recommended list of special equipment for aviation contingents under procedures applicable to special case items	Recommends approval
12. Requirement for high-frequency radio sets for air contingents	Approve the revision to high-frequency radio set requirements for air contingents	Recommends approval
13. Portable X-ray machines in level II hospitals	Approve the addition of a portable X-ray machine to level II hospitals	Recommends approval
14. Ultrasound machines in level II hospitals and CT scanners in level III hospitals	Approve the addition of an ultrasound machine to level II hospitals and CT scanners as special case equipment for level III hospitals	Recommends approval
15. Additional capability modules for level II hospitals	Approve the addition of orthopaedic, gynaecology and internal medicine modules to level II hospitals as additional capability modules, when required	Recommends approval

United Nations A/65/801–S/2011/208

General Assembly
Security Council

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30 March 2011

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General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session
Agenda items 34, 39, 66 and 75

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts

Letter dated 29 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan regarding a Field Assessment Mission to the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan conducted by the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe from 7 to 12 October 2010 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 39, 66 and 75, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 29 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Upon the request of the Republic of Azerbaijan, concerned about continued illegal activities perpetrated by the Republic of Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, including the illegal settlement practices, economic exploitation and devastation of these territories, the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) conducted a Field Assessment Mission to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan surrounding its Nagorno-Karabakh region from 7 to 12 October 2010 with the aim of assessing the overall situation there.

The Co-Chairs were joined by the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and his team, two experts from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and one member of the 2005 OSCE Minsk Group Fact-Finding Mission.

The Mission revealed once again the continuation of the policy of illegal settlement by the ethnic Armenians in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan as well as infrastructure changes and economic activities conducted in these territories in violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and its additional protocols, to which Armenia has been a party since 1993.

According to the visual appraisal and information provided by the locals, the number of illegal Armenian settlers in the occupied seven districts of Azerbaijan is roughly estimated by the Mission to be 14,000 persons. Some of these settlers live in rehabilitated or newly constructed housing. According to the observations of the Mission, a number of administrative, educational and medical buildings visited by the Mission in the occupied territories were constructed and/or equipped with the outside financial support of Armenian diaspora.

With regard to infrastructure changes, the Mission's assessment finds that efforts have been made to develop infrastructure, especially to supply electricity and drinking water. All except the most remote settlements visited by the Mission were supplied with electricity. In the Sabukhchai river valley north of Lachin city, a 2.2 MW hydroelectric power station was observed. It is part of a plan to construct 25 such microhydroelectric stations. Several settlements feature small gas pipelines to provide heating, which residents noted had been installed within the past five years. In contrast to 2005, mobile phone connectivity is possible in most regions visited by the Mission.

It has also been observed by the Mission that the administrative boundaries of the occupied territories have been extensively redrawn. This redrawing of the boundaries has involved both the renaming of some districts and the reassigning of lands that were in the occupied territories. Furthermore, Armenians change the historical names of Azerbaijani sites and settlements, applying their names to them.

Thus, the name of the city of Agdam, which had as many as 70,000 inhabitants prior to the conflict, is not even mentioned in the Armenian maps or road signs.

A matter of specific concern is the Mission's conclusion that the potential for future returns by those currently displaced in other parts of Azerbaijan is greatly complicated not only by the continued occupation of the territories but also by the ruined state of these regions. Nearly all private and commercial property of former inhabitants has been destroyed. The regions do not offer conditions suitable for return. Any significant return of the original population would have to be preceded by the large-scale rebuilding of housing and basic infrastructure.

It should be noted that the time pressure, limited number of personnel and movement hindrances have prevented the Mission from making a more comprehensive assessment and profound analysis of the situation in the occupied territories. However, the existing facts on the ground were so outrageous and grave that even with the problems that the Mission faced during its visit, the findings of the Mission provided in the report have been unavoidable.

The Mission's findings reconfirmed the validity of the concern of Azerbaijan over the continuation of illegal activities in its occupied territories. Its observations confirmed once again the attempts of Armenia to consolidate the current status quo of the occupation, which violate fundamental norms and principles, in particular the principle of the non-use of force.

These findings and observations were noted by the Co-Chairs in 2005, when they appealed in their recommendations that "any further settlement of the occupied territories should be discouraged" and "prolonged continuation of this situation could lead to a fait accompli that would seriously complicate the peace process". The Co-Chairs express the same concern and repeat the same appeal in their current recommendations. Alas, over the past six years Armenia has not followed the Co-Chairs' appeal, continuing to disregard the principles of the conflict settlement.

Azerbaijan draws attention to the major statement of the Mission that the status quo in the occupied territories is unacceptable and urges Armenia to put an end to its continuing illegal practices in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan wants to make it clear that the continuous policy of Armenia in this direction shall not be tolerated.

The presence of illegal settlers in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan hampers the ongoing negotiations and seriously undermines the prospects of achieving a lasting solution to the conflict. That is why this problem needs to be addressed in a prompt and proper manner.

A durable solution to the conflict can be achieved only through the return of all the forcibly expelled Azerbaijani population from the occupied territories to its places of origin. The current situation in the occupied territories cannot be presented as any kind of pretext for any delay in the withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from these territories and their rehabilitation.

Azerbaijan supports the Co-Chairs' appeal to avoid any activities in the occupied territories that would change the demographic, social or cultural character of areas affected by the conflict (such as continued illegal settlement, infrastructure developments, economic exploitation, cultural changes, etc.), or that would make it impossible to reverse the status quo and achieve a peaceful settlement.

The Field Assessment Mission of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group and the Co-Chairs' recommendations lay a foundation for the further review and resolution of this problem. Azerbaijan believes in the strong support of the international community on putting an end to the occupation of its territories. Azerbaijan agrees with the worldwide understanding that the withdrawal of Armenian troops from the occupied lands and the restoration of its territorial integrity will strongly diminish serious risks and challenges that exist in the region and will open the door not only for peaceful coexistence, but also for the development and prosperity of everyone.

United Nations A/65/802–S/2011/210

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
30 March 2011

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 68 (b)
Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Letter dated 29 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Ambassadorial Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in New York, I have the honour to convey that the Group held an emergency meeting on Friday, 25 March 2011, to discuss the despicable act of the burning of a copy of the Holy Koran by two pastors, following a mock trial in a church on 20 March 2011 in Florida, United States of America.

This provocative act, which has hurt the sentiments of the 1.5 billion Muslims of the world, was strongly condemned by the OIC Group as an act of advocacy of incitement to religious hatred, discrimination and violence against Islam and Muslims. The OIC Ambassadors urged the international community in general and you in particular to openly and strongly condemn this act of extreme bigotry and religious hatred.

I am enclosing the text of the statement issued by the OIC Ambassadorial Group in New York on this subject, with a request for circulation to the entire United Nations membership (see annex).

As you will see in the statement, the OIC Ambassadorial Group called upon you, as well as reiterated the call made by the OIC Group in Geneva to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, to express unequivocal condemnation of the insidious desecration of the holy book of Islam and show action-oriented leadership to tackle the growing manifestations of religious intolerance and discrimination and incitement to hatred and violence based on religion.

The OIC Group strongly believes that the United Nations has an important role to play in ensuring peace and harmony among the peoples and nations of the world. Accordingly, in your capacity as the Secretary-General of the United Nations, we expect you to take the necessary steps to fight such insidious tendencies, to protect

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multiculturalism and promote peace and harmony that are fundamental to the peaceful coexistence of mankind.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 68 (b), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sirodjidin **Aslov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 29 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in New York strongly condemns the sacrilegious act of burning of the Holy Koran in Florida as an act of advocacy of incitement to religious hatred, discrimination and violence

25 March 2011

The Ambassadorial Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference at the United Nations, New York, at an emergency meeting convened today, expressed its strong condemnation of the despicable act of the burning of a copy of the Koran by Pastors Wayne Sapp and Terry Jones in Gainesville, Florida, United States of America, on 20 March 2011. Calling it an act of extremists guided by their hatred towards other cultures and religions, the OIC Group regretted that it took place in a church, a sacred place itself, reserved for prayers and remembrance of God.

The OIC Group shared the disappointment and concern expressed by the Secretary-General of the OIC over this reprehensible act of extreme bigotry, which has severely hurt the feelings of 1.5 billion Muslims all over the world, and cautioned that if necessary conditions were not created by the international community to prevent a recurrence of such Islamophobic acts, it would have grave repercussions over interfaith harmony as well as global peace, security and stability.

The Group urged the international community to unanimously condemn these acts that are clear examples of advocacy of incitement to hatred, discrimination and violence based on religion. It was further highlighted that such acts, when left unattended, provide fuel to extremist thoughts and elements in different societies that lead to undermining peaceful coexistence and harmony among peoples and societies. While appreciating the condemnatory statement issued by the United States in the general debate of the Human Rights Council on 22 March 2011 and other statements by interfaith and community leaders in the United States, the Group hoped that the United States Administration would take appropriate actions against the perpetrators of these acts in accordance with its national and international obligations.

The OIC Group also called upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to express their unequivocal condemnation of the insidious desecration of the holy book of Islam and show action-oriented leadership to tackle the growing problem of religious intolerance, discrimination and incitement to hatred and violence based on religion and belief.

The Group stated that at a time when Muslims around the world continue to be confronted with ever-increasing instances of intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination and violence on the basis of their religion, the OIC-sponsored resolution adopted by consensus on 24 March 2011 by the Human Rights Council in Geneva, entitled "Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence, and violence against persons based on religion or belief", should be seen as the confirmation of the sincere commitment of OIC to the promotion of a global culture of respect,

tolerance and peace among all, irrespective of religious and cultural backgrounds and traditions.

OIC Ambassadors further reiterated the strong commitment of OIC to the promotion of interfaith and intercultural dialogue and the need to preserve the multicultural fabric of our societies that is fundamental to peaceful coexistence among peoples, cultures and nations.

United Nations A/65/803–S/2011/209

General Assembly
Security Council

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1 April 2011

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General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 33
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 29 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement of the State Duma, the lower house of the Federal Assembly of Russia, on the situation in Libya (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

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Annex to the letter dated 29 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Russian]

State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Declaration by the State Duma on the situation in Libya

The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation notes with concern that the situation in Libya is developing extremely unfavourably. The conflict between Government forces and rebels has resulted in the loss of lives and threatens to grow into a civil war. The Deputies of the State Duma express their condolences to the Libyan people in connection with the many deaths.

On 26 February 2011 the Russian Federation, and other States members of the United Nations Security Council, supported resolution 1970 (2011), which contained a clear message to the Government of Libya that any use of military force was inadmissible. Since this message was not heeded in Tripoli, a stronger response was required from the international community.

Unfortunately, the draft resolution submitted by the Russian Federation on 16 March 2011, which underscored the need for a peaceful settlement of the situation in Libya, with the participation of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General and representatives of the Human Rights Council and the African Union, did not receive sufficient support. Although the aim of Security Council resolution 1973 (2011), adopted on 17 March 2011, was primarily to protect the civilian population of Libya, including through the imposition of a no-fly zone, this resolution did not set clear limits on the use of military force.

The Deputies of the State Duma consider that the decision of the Russian Federation to abstain in the voting was appropriate in that situation. This option maintained the cohesion of the international community in rejecting military repression of the civilian population of Libya, while leaving intact the message sent to the Libyan leadership to protect its citizens.

However, the implementation of the resolution has revealed the desire of a number of States to use it as a pretext for achieving other aims. According to media reports, since 19 March 2011, in the context of the military operation conducted by a coalition of States, missile attacks on the territory of Libya have struck a number of sites which had no direct relation to the no-fly zone.

The Deputies of the State Duma believe that the indiscriminate use of force against Libya could delay the prospects for stabilizing the Libyan situation, lead to further deaths among the civilian population and hasten the attempts by a number of States to develop national programmes for the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction.

The State Duma joins the demands of the United Nations Security Council for an immediate ceasefire and a complete end to the violence and all attacks against, and harsh treatment of, civilians. It calls on the Libyan leadership and the States

members of the coalition to strictly follow in their actions the spirit and letter of the relevant resolutions.

At the same time, the State Duma expresses its concern at the extent and forms of military force used against Libya and calls on the parliaments of France, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Italy, Canada and other States involved in the military operation to support an immediate cessation of the hostilities, which are damaging Libyan civilian infrastructure, and most importantly are causing additional casualties among the civilian population.

The Russian Federation should take all necessary measures, primarily to ensure the safety of Russian Federation citizens in Libya, including their evacuation if necessary. It should also take an active role in diplomatic efforts, including possible mediation efforts, with a view to halting the violence in Libya.

Taking into account that, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1973 (2011), the States taking part in the military operation against Libya shall coordinate their actions closely with the Secretary-General and inform him immediately of the measures they are taking to implement the resolution, the State Duma requests President Medvedev of the Russian Federation to instruct the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to continue to make every possible effort in the Security Council to ensure that its implementation of the resolutions concerning Libya is strictly in keeping with the stated humanitarian goals, the Charter of the United Nations and the generally accepted principles and norms of international law.

B. V. Gryzlov
President of the State Duma
of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation
Moscow
23 March 2011

United Nations A/65/804–S/201

General Assembly
Security Council

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5 April 2011

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General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 34
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 4 April 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the decision of the International Court of Justice (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alexander **Lomaia**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

11-28991 (E) 060411

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Annex to the identical letters dated 4 April 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement issued on 1 April 2011 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the decision of the International Court of Justice

On 1 April 2011, the International Court of Justice rendered its Judgment on the preliminary objections raised by Russia in the case between Georgia and Russia on the application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Pursuant to its Judgment, the Court found that it lacked the jurisdiction to proceed to a consideration of the merits of the case, as necessary requirements such as negotiations had not been exhausted by the States.

The Court took into consideration and upheld the main argument of Georgia and declared that the Russian Federation was a party to the dispute between Russia and Georgia which had arisen as a result of 2008 Russo-Georgian war. This decision dismisses long-standing arguments of Russia that there was no dispute between Russia and Georgia.

The Court found that with regard to the August 2008 war, a dispute between Georgia and Russia about the latter's compliance with its obligation under the 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination did exist, which, inter alia, includes issues of ethnic cleansing and racial discrimination.

From the standpoint of international law, this Judgment supports the position of Georgia that it is engaged in a dispute with the Russian Federation on the issues arising out of the 1965 Convention.

United Nations A/65/805–S/2011/174

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
6 April 2011
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 36
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 21 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a complaint about Israeli enemy forces, who planted a surveillance and photographic system deep within Lebanese territory (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as an official document of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 36, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 21 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The Lebanese Republic

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants

A surveillance and photographic system in the form of an artificial rock was planted by Israeli enemy forces in the Shama` area, close to Tyre, which is within the area of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The device was, to be precise, close to the command post of the Italian unit. On 17 March 2011, the system was dismantled by a special unit of the Lebanese Army. The system was detected as a result of information obtained from resistance sources by the Lebanese Army Intelligence Directorate, and was subsequently uncovered, dismantled and removed by Directorate technical units. The system comprised five parts: a photographic system, a system for picture transmission, a system for receiving control signals, a means of generating sufficient energy for the system for a long period and a cooling system. The device, which used highly advanced technology, provided coverage of the southern coast of Lebanon between Bayyadah and Tyre. It was operated remotely by Israeli surveillance aircraft that received photographs directly from the photographic system in the device. It should be pointed out that this is the second occasion on which an Israeli espionage apparatus has been found deep within Lebanese territory: two systems were found on 15 December 2010 in the Baruk and Sannin areas.

The planting by Israel of that system deep within Lebanese territory constitutes a flagrant violation of Lebanese sovereignty, international laws and norms, and Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), and is prejudicial to international peace and security. It also constitutes an act of aggression against Lebanese territory and confirms yet again Israel's contempt for United Nations resolutions and for UNIFIL, to the mandate of which it represents a blatant challenge. Lebanon demands that the Security Council assume its responsibility to maintain international peace and security and bring pressure to bear on Israel to abandon its aggressive and provocative policy towards Lebanon. The Council should also ensure that Israel complies with resolution 1701 (2006), respects the mandate of UNIFIL and withdraws forthwith, unconditionally, from all Lebanese territory.